BTS

MARC
JUNE 2026

CUT OUT AND KEEP BTS CALENDAR

COUNTING DOWN THE DAYS

THE BOYS ARE BACK TO ROCK!

EVERY ALBUM REVISITED

FAN ZONE

"BTS HAVE MADE ME AND MY DAUGHTER CLOSER!"

BUSY BOYS!

What they've really been up to!

FUN FUN FUN!

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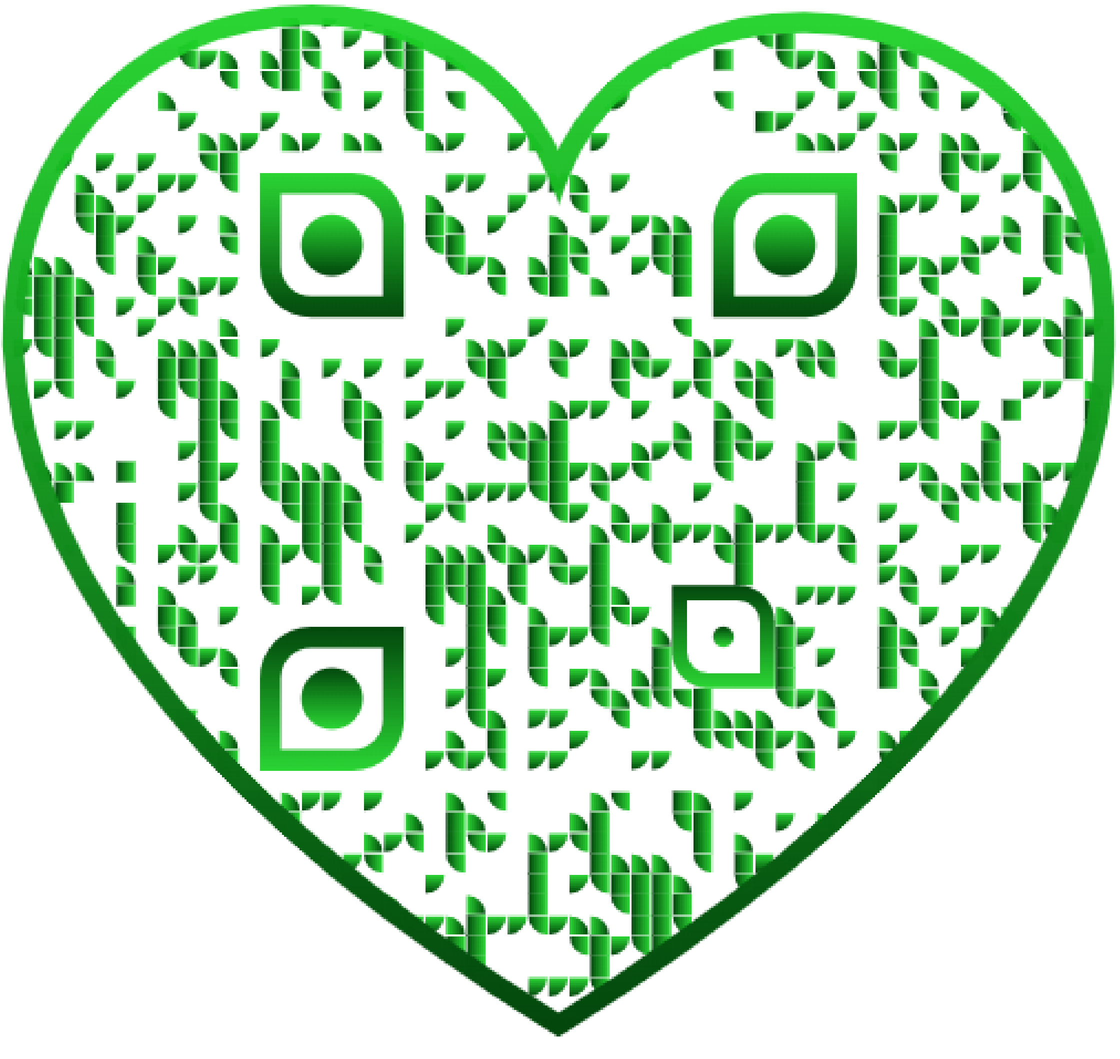

WELCOME

As fans looked up at the headquarters of the HYBE Corporation, three simple words had been wrapped around the building: “We Are Back.” Fans rejoiced as buses with photos of each BTS member drove through the streets of Seoul.

The wait was finally over. Two and a half years after BTS announced a temporary hiatus to complete their military service and focus on solo projects, RM, Jin, J-Hope, V, Jimin, Suga and Jungkook announced they were officially back! A new BTS album would be released in spring 2026, followed by their first world tour since *Permission To Dance On Stage* back in 2022.

As they prepare for a reunion like no other, we look back at their incredible achievements throughout their hiatus…

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BTS ASSEMBLE!

We've waited three years for BTS to resume group activities. As the members prepare for their world tour next year, we follow their activities throughout 2025 and their epic journey back together...

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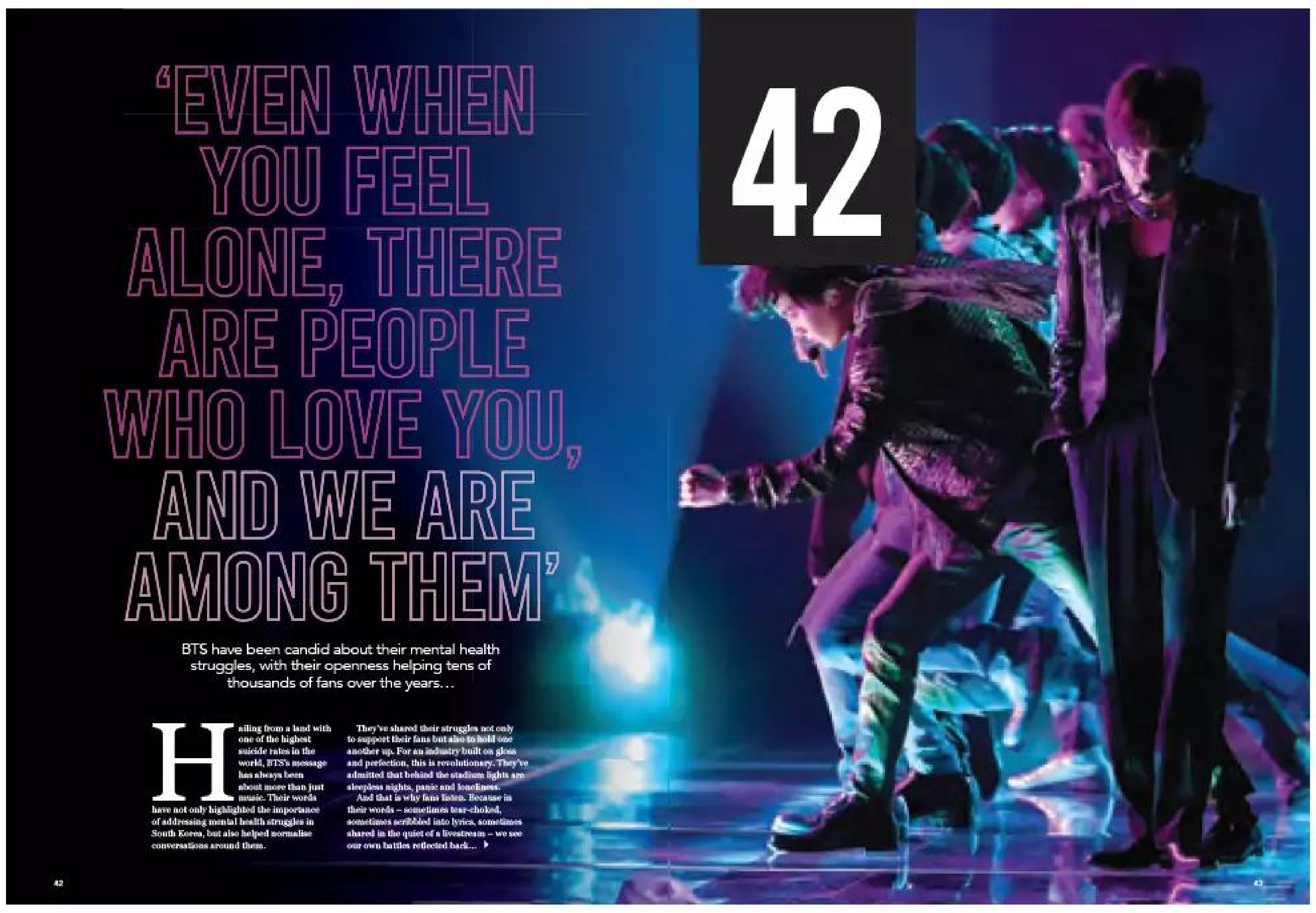
"LIVING THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY FROM MY DAUGHTER IS REALLY HARD – BUT BTS HAVE HELPED BRING US CLOSER TOGETHER"

Across continents and the pandemic, Janet Puzzar found solace, joy and friendship through BTS – and proved that Army knows no age limit...

For many K-Pop fans, discovering BTS is more than just finding a group to love – it's finding a community, an inspiration and sometimes even a lifeline. For Janet Puzzar, a 66-year-old mum from Liverpool, England, BTS entered her life during a period of profound distance and uncertainty. With her daughter Caitlin living in Japan and the world in the grip of the pandemic, Janet faced three long years without seeing her only child in person. It was Caitlin – who has created an app for safeguarding children, called Guardian – who introduced her to the boys. Together they streamed a BTS concert across time zones – a shared experience that bridged continents and brought a spark of joy into the isolation of lockdown.



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'EVEN WHEN YOU FEEL ALONE, THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO LOVE YOU, AND WE ARE AMONG THEM'

BTS have been candid about their mental health struggles, with their openness helping tens of thousands of fans over the years...

Hailing from a land with one of the highest suicide rates in the world, BTS's message has always been about more than just music. Their words have not only highlighted the importance of addressing mental health struggles in South Korea, but also helped normalise conversations around them.

They've shared their struggles not only to support their fans but also to hold one another up. For an industry built on gloss and perfection, this is revolutionary. They've admitted that behind the stadium lights are sleepless nights, panic and loneliness.

And that is why fans listen. Because in their words – sometimes tear-choked, sometimes scribbled into lyrics, sometimes shared in the quiet of a livestream – we see our own battles reflected back...

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J-HOPE

He's one of the greatest dancers in K-Pop, and his talent doesn't stop there

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BTS ASSEMBLE!

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JANUARY

While RM, V, Jungkook, Jimin and Suga were busy completing their mandatory military enlistment, J-Hope and Jin were busy preparing fantastic new music!

In January, Hobi announced his first worldwide solo concert tour, *Hope On The Stage*. He was also asked by the French first lady Brigitte Macron to be the opening act at her prestigious charity event, Le Gala des Pièces Jaunes.

RM gave Army a new year treat on Instagram, sharing a carousel of images celebrating his first year of military deployment. In typical Jooni style, we saw him visiting art galleries, drinking whiskey and enjoying nature with friends.

Jimin also shared a heartfelt letter on Weverse, opening up about his emotional journey as an active soldier. "My determination to give you the best stage possible, for all of you who have waited for us, has not wavered," Jimin promised. "I'll prepare diligently, truly… I'll do my best to return in a really good state."

FEBRUARY

Our sunshine Hobi celebrated his 31st birthday on February 18. On Instagram, he shared a super cute birthday video featuring a surprise from his team, which included a tiara, flowers and a delicious cake. Ten days later, Hobi took to the stage for his debut *Hope On The Stage* concert at Seoul's KPSO Dome Arena.

Meanwhile, our Worldwide Handsome, Jin, stole the spotlight at the Gucci 2025 Fall/Winter Fashion Show in Milan, rocking a stylish leather jacket with a shirt and tie.

On socials, a very buff Sergeant Taehyung Kim gave Army a long-awaited update on his military activities, sharing gym selfies and photos with his buddies in the elite Military Police Corps.

MARCH

Giving us a glimpse into his precious vacation days while serving active duty, Joonie posted a precious update on Instagram, sharing a carousel of images from winter hikes, coffee runs and meeting cute dogs!

Jin visited Hobi during the opening nights of his world tour, before making a show-stopping appearance at the FRED Paris High Jewellery Gala Dinner in Seoul, dressed to the nines in a sleek white suit.

Later that month, J-Hope travelled to America to promote his new single *Sweet Dreams*, featuring the American singer Miguel. Hobi performed the song live on *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*, reminiscing with Jimmy about ordering his first ever In-N-Out Burger.

대한민국 육군 ROKA

APRIL

Continuing promotions in the US, Hobi confirmed that with RM, V, Jungkook, Jimin and Suga approaching the end of their military enlistment, the group planned to "quickly" reunite and record new music.

Hobi won several Korean music show awards for his new single, *Mona Lisa*, and brought his signature swag to an NBA Los Angeles Lakers game where he was gifted a

pair of signature Jordan Brand sneakers by Lakers guard Luka Dončić.

Jin made a special appearance at Coldplay's concert in Seoul, joining his buddy Chris Martin for live performances of their co-written hit *The Astronaut* and the classic BTS collab *My Universe*.

Finally, Jimin reached out to Army on Weverse, answering exclusive fan questions about his plans for life after the military.

MAY

With only a month to go until the BTS reunion, Jin released his second solo EP, *Echo*, including the lead single *Don't Say You Love Me*.

The album charted at number three on the US Billboard 200 chart, and during an interview on *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*, Seokjin spilled the gossip about his upcoming solo worldwide concert tour, the *RunSeokjin Ep.* tour. Our lifelong Super Mario fan also performed at Super Nintendo World at Universal Studios in Japan.

On Insta, RM gave more insights into his downtime from military service, drinking iced coffee, cycling through the streets of Seoul and working hard in the gym. ▸

JUNE

A month that will forever be celebrated in the history of BTS, our Bangtan Boys were finally back together!

On June 10, V and RM were officially discharged from the military, followed by Jimin and Jungkook. A global media storm accompanied their discharge events, with RM playing the saxophone in celebration, thousands of fans gathering at military bases and crowds lining the streets of Seoul.

V and RM appeared live on Weverse, with Jimin and Jungkook delivering their own live update the next day. On June 13, the members were spotted dancing in the crowd at Hobi's live solo show in Goyang, where Jungkook joined him on stage for a surprise performance of *I Wonder*.

Following Yoongi's private discharge as a social service agent on June 21, he posted a message on Weverse for the first time in two years. "It's a day I've been waiting for, and because it's been so long, I thought a lot about how to greet you. Above all, I wanted to first tell you, the fans who waited for me, that I sincerely thank you. I really missed you," he said.

In a proud moment, Yoongi donated five billion Korean won to fund a pioneering treatment and research centre for children

and adolescents with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

Fully embracing life outside the military, RM enjoyed a holiday to the Netherlands and travelled to Switzerland in his role as Samsung's Global Art TV Ambassador.

JULY

Emotions were high on July 1 as all seven members reunited during a Weverse livestream to announce their future. Laughing and joking, they confirmed that BTS would release a new album in spring 2026, with plans for a world tour.

Hobi headlined Lollapalooza Berlin with an incredible 90-minute set of solo hits and BTS anthems, including his sexy new single, *Killin' It Girl*. Jin also continued his world tour across the USA.

Jimin shared updates on Instagram walking on the beach with RM and Hobi, while V was thrust back into the spotlight when he travelled to Paris Fashion Week as a Celine ambassador.

RM, J-Hope, Suga, Jimin and Jungkook were all seen backstage at Jin's solo concerts, offering hugs and words of encouragement.

AUGUST

During an emotional month, BTS offered a glimpse into their new lives as a fully reunited band. With Jin's solo tour completed, he joined the members in Los Angeles to continue working on their spring 2026 album. During a live Weverse session, fans followed the seven members enjoying a day out at the beach. Jimin revealed the members were taking a day off each week from recording, while Namjoon replied: "Miss you, wife!" to a fan who playfully commented: "Miss you, my husband."

On Instagram, Jimin posted a carousel of the members bonding together as brothers and sharing a sunset dinner. He also posted a super cute video holding hands with Tae as they jumped in the waves on a nearby beach.

RM shared a glimpse of his day out at Disneyland in LA, while Hobi gave us a candid video of downtime in the recording studio with the American singer Charlie Puth.

SEPTEMBER

Jimin and RM both surprised fans by revealing their new blond hairstyles! Namjoon marked his 31st birthday with a two-tiered purple cake and made a notable donation of 200 million Korean won to medical centres in Korea.

Meanwhile, Taekook gave us the ultimate thirst trap thanks to a surprise appearance in V's trainer's latest social media blog, showing off some impressive biceps. V also revealed his first high-energy advert for Coca-Cola Korea as their new ambassador.

Jungkook celebrated his 28th birthday with a surprise livestream. On the broadcast, he revealed a new labret piercing, gave fans a tour of his new home and talked about a recent serious incident where a fan tried to gain access to his home.

A few weeks later, JK made his New York Fashion Week debut, turning heads at the Calvin Klein show.

It's been an unforgettable year for our talented Bangtan Boys, and we can't wait for new music in 2026!

FEATURE BY HADLEY MIDDLETON

JimiN

The last member of the group to be selected as an idol trainee, Jimin has been busy making up for lost time

Our Chim Chim, Jimin, has undergone something of a transformation in the last few years. Vocally and artistically, Jimin has reached new heights as a performer, pushing himself to achieve greatness and revealing struggles with his mental health.

While Jimin has always been revered for his magnetic stage presence and charisma, it's taken time for him to develop his craft as a songwriter and producer. In 2022, he released the single *With You*, a duet with fellow K-Pop idol Ha Sung-woon which featured on the soundtrack of the popular K-drama, *Our Blues*. But an even bigger duet was on the way!

In January 2023, Jimin was invited by BigBang legend Taeyang to collaborate on an exclusive single for his second album. The pair wrote a slick pop track, *Vibe*, which became an international hit, winning first place on *M Countdown* and receiving nominations for Best Collaboration and Song Of The Year at the 2023 MAMA Awards. Jimin and Taeyang also released a live performance video for the song, harmonising perfectly and showing their star power as two of the most prolific second and third generation stars in K-Pop history.

Jimin was announced as a global ambassador for Tiffany & Co and the fashion house Dior. He caused pandemonium at Dior's Winter 2023 show in Paris, as thousands of fans waited for his arrival. During the prestigious show, he sat next to J-Hope and supermodel Naomi Campbell.

But the best was yet to come. Throughout 2022, Jimin had been co-writing and producing his debut pop, hip-hop and R&B album, *FACE*. Comprising just five songs, *FACE* showed a new side to our gentle Chim Chim. For the first time, Jimin opened up in detail about the emotional struggles and loneliness he'd faced during the pandemic. With songs featuring explicit language, anger and references to alcohol as an emotional crutch, *FACE* explores Jimin's journey to break free from his feelings and find freedom.

HE CAUSED PANDEMONIUM IN PARIS AS THOUSANDS OF FANS WAITED FOR HIS ARRIVAL

The album's first single *Set Me Free Pt.2* sees him rapping for the first time, while also using distorted vocal effects and auto-tune. The song's incredible choreography placed Jimin centre stage with a large group of dancers and symbolises his determination to overcome his internal battles.

The day after *FACE*'s release, Jimin appeared as "Jimin Fallon" with his favourite talk show host on *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*. He practised English for the interview, answering questions confidently and reflecting on his journey to become an idol. A fun pre-recorded skit showcases Jimin's acting skills as he visits Jimmy's office, only to find it's become a creepy shrine to our Chim Chim!

Later that night, Jimin gave a live performance of the album's second single, *Like Crazy*. Co-written by his bandmate RM and recorded in two languages, the Korean version of *Like Crazy* talks about the pain of losing a loved one, while the English version explores the burden of stardom. ▸

Celine

Inspired by Jimin's favourite film of the same name, the synthy, sexy *Like Crazy* made history as the first single by a South Korean solo artist to chart at number one on the Billboard Hot 100. More than 170 million fans have watched the hypnotic video for *Like Crazy*, following Jimin in a trippy nightclub as he's lost in a sea of faces, struggling to let go and have fun.

Like Crazy has been streamed more than a billion times on Spotify, receiving nominations at the MAMA Awards for Best Dance Performance and Song Of The Year, and Top Selling Song at the Billboard Music Awards.

FACE charted at number two on the US Billboard album charts, setting another chart solo record for South Korean solo artists alongside his bandmates V and Jungkook. Jimin lent his delicate vocals to *Angel Pt.1*, a duet with Kodak Black and Muni Long for the popular action movie *Fast X*. He also released a digital single, *Closer Than This*, as a love letter to fans before starting his military service.

To cope with the pressures of military service, Jimin and Jungkook chose to enlist together under the South Korean military's buddy system. Jimin confessed to feeling anxious about enlisting and struggling during their basic training period.

"I was quite distressed when we entered the training camp," Jimin shared later during a livestream. "Jungkook, on the other hand, was fine. I struggled for five weeks, but Jungkook was a great support, always reminding me how fast time flies."

He continued: "Once we were assigned to our units, the roles reversed. Jungkook started feeling the strain, and I was there to support him. We really leaned on each other."

Hard working as ever, Jimin excelled as a soldier, winning a Bravery Award, a certificate for Top Trainee recognition and another accolade for Excellence in CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives) Operations.

FANS WERE CHARMED BY JIMIN'S GENTLE NATURE AS HE MIMICKED JK'S DANCE MOVES

Fans were also treated to a unique view of Jimin and JK's bond thanks to the Disney+ travel series *Are You Sure?!*. Over its eight episodes, fans were charmed by Jimin's gentle nature as he mimicked JK's dance moves in Japanese grocery stores and spent too much time blow-drying his hair!

Before enlisting, Jimin had also produced and prepared his second studio album, *Muse*. He also received rigorous vocal training to refine his voice and protect his vocal cords.

Acting again as a co-producer, *Muse* showed a more tender and light side to Jimin. The album featured duets with Sofia Carson and Loco, charting again at number two on the US Billboard charts.

Following the release of a fun first single, *Smeraldo Garden Marching Band*, Jimin unveiled the album's focus track *Who*, which became a record-breaking pop banger. Streamed almost two billion times on Spotify, the song became the longest-charting song by a Korean solo artist in Billboard chart history. Jimin also pre-recorded a live performance of the song for *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*. Fans were amazed by Jimin's stable use of falsetto and his sexy moves with a female dance partner.

Since completing his military service, Jimin has been overwhelmed by support from fans worldwide. At his discharge ceremony, he spoke about how difficult enlistment can be for young Korean men.

"It was my first time in the military, and honestly, it wasn't an easy place," Jimin told reporters. "If you see soldiers passing by, I'd be very grateful if you could even just say a warm word to them."

Recently, fans have spotted Jimin dancing at J-Hope and Jin's solo concerts and sharing tender moments on Instagram with his BTS brothers as they record their 2026 studio album. Still embarrassed by his short military haircut, Jimin is often spotted wearing beanie hats. We hope your hair grows back soon, Jiminshi!

FEATURE BY HADLEY MIDDLETON

billboard MUSIC AWARDS

THE TRIUMPH OF BTS

When Big Hit CEO Bang Si-hyuk decided to form a new idol group back in 2010, he found seven young superstars who permanently changed the face of pop. As BTS enter an exciting new era, we look back at their biggest career triumphs…

billboard

GLOBAL POPULARITY

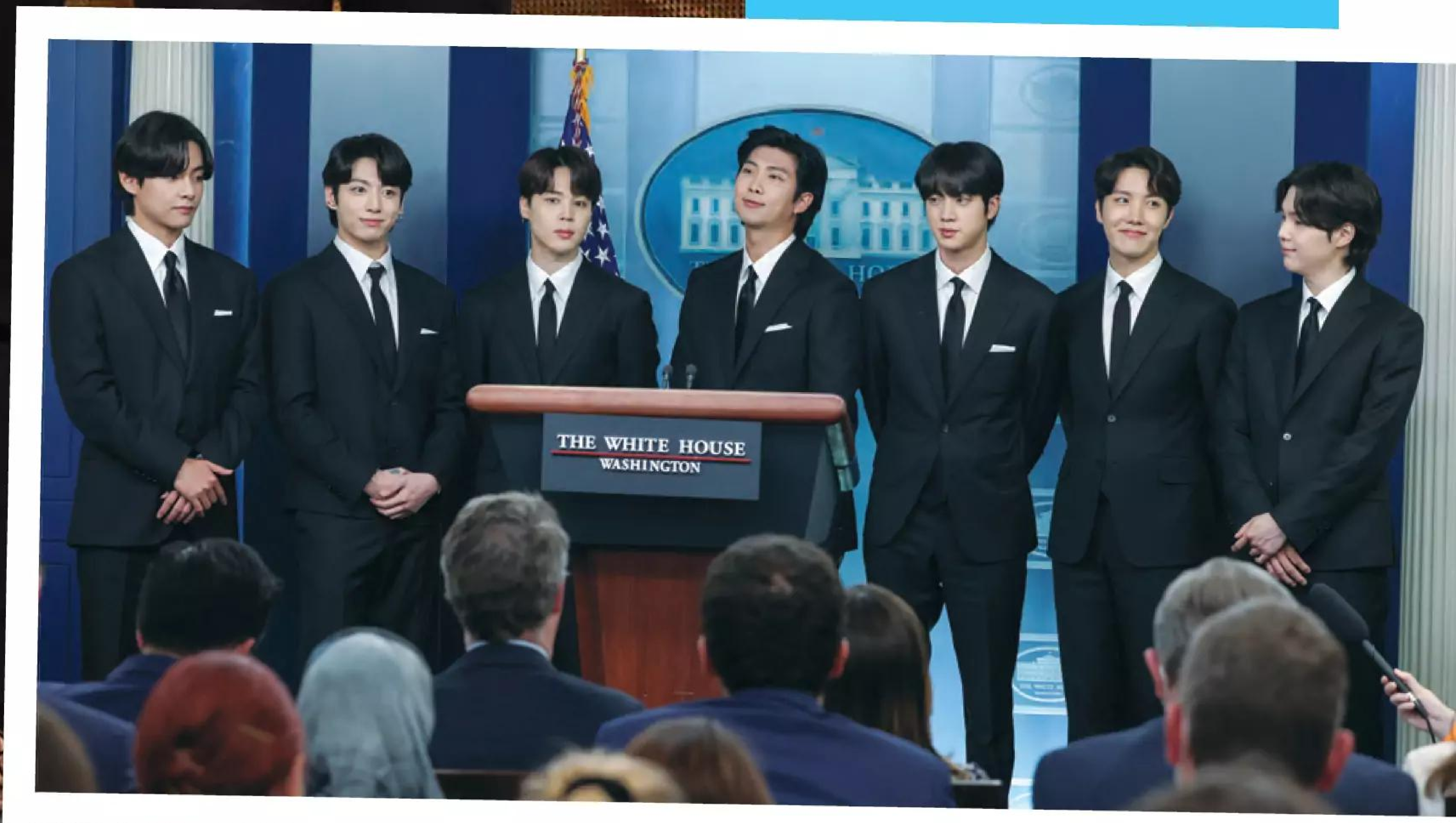
In a sign of their growing worldwide appeal, BTS began to dominate social media just four years after their debut. In 2017, they were the most-tweeted celebrities globally on Twitter (now X), ranking higher than Justin Bieber and Harry Styles. That same year, the group also won Top Social Artist at the Billboard Music Awards.

I NEED U'S BIG WIN

After many years of struggling to break through, the members were finally rewarded for their hard work when *I Need U* became their first ever music show win in May 2015. As the results were announced on Korean TV's popular broadcast *M Countdown*, the members were almost too stunned to speak!

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

Dressed immaculately in matching black suits, BTS became the first K-Pop group to receive an exclusive invitation to the White House. In May 2022, they met President Joe Biden to address a worrying surge in anti-Asian hate crimes since the pandemic.



GREAT GRAMMYs

BTS made history several times over when they became the first K-Pop group to present at the Grammy Awards in 2019. The following year, they lent their talents to a star-studded remix performance of *Old Town Road* alongside Lil Nas X, before notching up yet another record-breaking achievement as the first K-Pop group ever to receive a Grammy nomination for Best Pop Duo/Group Performance.

TOP OF THE CHARTS

With their sixth studio album, *Love Yourself: Tear* (2018), BTS became the first Korean act to debut at number one on the US Billboard 200 chart. *Dynamite* later became the first K-Pop song to reach the top of the US singles chart, with BTS currently holding the record for the most Billboard 100 number ones (six) among all artists in the last decade.

DOMINATING THE AMAs

BTS took the music world by storm when they became the first Korean act to perform at a major US award show. In November 2017, they delivered an electrifying live rendition of *DNA* at the American Music Awards. ▸

TICKET

TIME'S MOST INFLUENTIAL

In 2019, BTS were chosen as one of *TIME* magazine's 100 Most Influential People in the world. Their friend and collaborator Halsey wrote a beautiful tribute to the Bangtan boys, celebrating their charm, kindness, altruism and dedication, saying: "Behind those three letters are seven astounding young men who believe that music is stronger than the barriers of language. It's a universal dialect… underneath this showstopping, neatly groomed movement are just some guys who love music, one another and their fans."

SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER

In April 2019, the members slayed their prestigious gig as musical guests for the iconic US comedy show *Saturday Night Live*. BTS remain the only K-Pop artists to appear on the show, where they performed *Boy With Luv* and *Mic Drop*.

NATIONAL AMBASSADORS

The members were originally invited to speak at the United Nations back in September 2018 to mark the launch of their Love Myself campaign with UNICEF. BTS returned to the UN General Assembly again in 2021 as the South Korean Presidential Envoy for Future Generations and Culture. The members delivered heartfelt speeches about the collective grief caused by the pandemic and gave an exclusive live performance of *Permission To Dance*.

FEATURE BY HADLEY MIDDLETON

Jin

K-Pop's Worldwide Handsome is blessed with good looks, soaring vocals and an unshakeable confidence

Our handsome eldest member Jin became the first member of BTS to proceed with conscription, enlisting as an active duty soldier on December 13 2022 at the Yeoncheon army base in North Gyeonggi Province. Posting a photo of his newly shaved head on social media, the idol wasn't fazed. "It looks cuter than I expected!" he said.

Two months before, Jin left BTS fans with a beautiful gift – his debut solo single *The Astronaut*. Co-written with BTS collaborators Coldplay, the stunning pop-rock track celebrates Jin's love for his fans, with a super-cute video showing his acting chops! *The Astronaut* became Jin's first solo entry on the US Billboard 100 Chart, and he performed the song live with Coldplay in Buenos Aires.

By January 2023, Jin had completed five weeks of basic training as part of his mandatory service. More than just a handsome face, Jin was later promoted to the rank of corporal after receiving an honorary 'elite soldier' title for his outstanding performance. Although Jin couldn't make any promotional appearances during his military enlistment, he gave monthly updates to Army on Instagram. In March, he was visited by Jimin and J-Hope. The next month, he received permission to attend J-Hope's enlistment day, and he also attended enlistment ceremonies for the maknae line in December.

HE SALUTED THE CROWDS OF PHOTOGRAPHERS WHILE RM PLAYED *DYNAMITE* ON A SAXOPHONE

At last, in June 2024, Jin emerged from the 5th Army Infantry Division's base in northern Yeoncheon province. He saluted the crowds of photographers outside the camp gates, while RM played the band's mega-hit *Dynamite* on a saxophone. Jin waved to fans before announcing a very special fan event for Army – he would host a three-hour hug marathon for 1,000 fans at Seoul's Jamsil Arena!

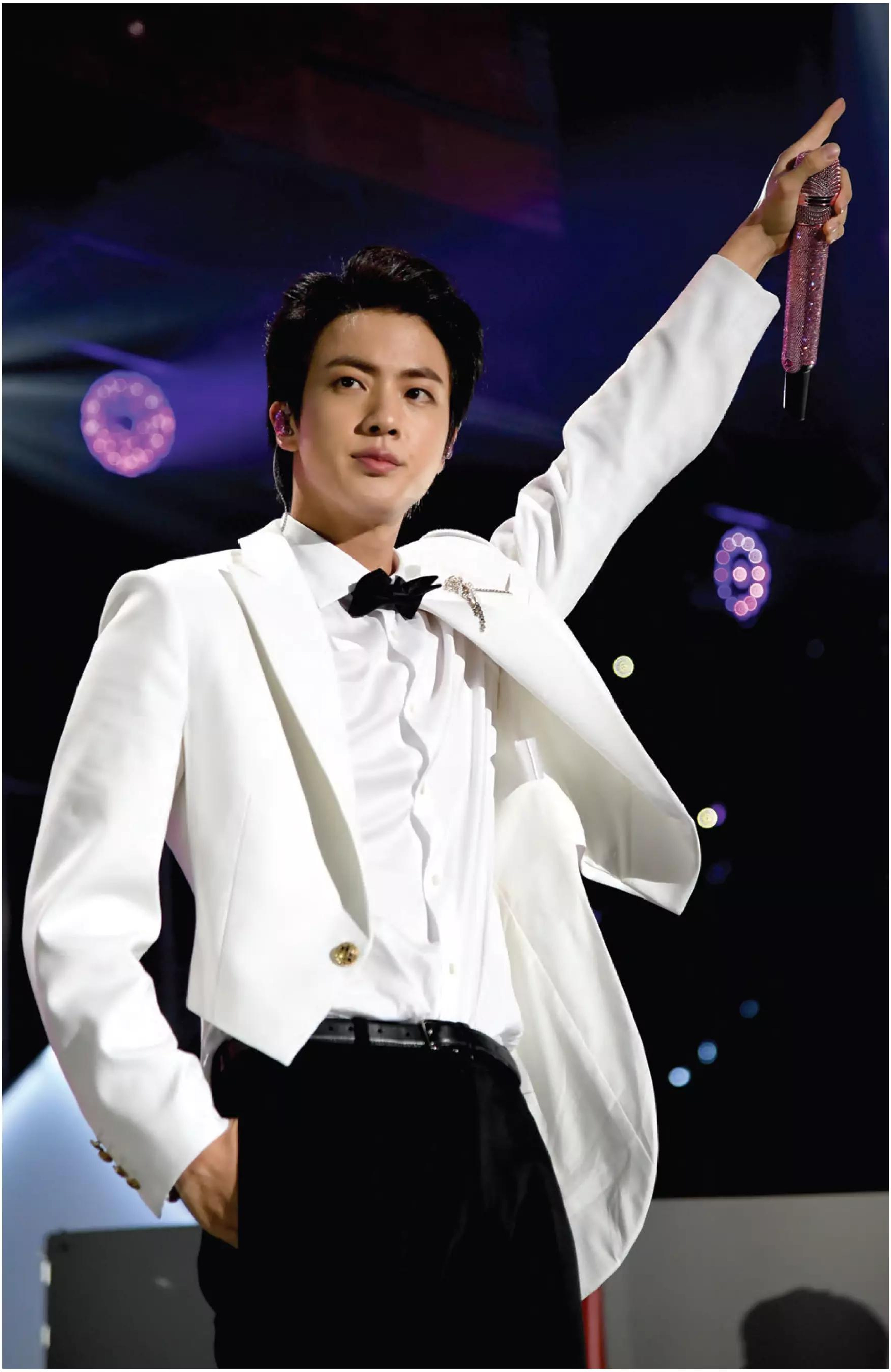
The following month, Jin's Worldwide Handsome face was seen across the globe as an official torchbearer for the South Korean delegation at the Paris Olympics. He was later named a global brand ambassador for the fashion house Gucci.

Jin also announced his new variety web series, *Run Jin*, with an incredible 36 episodes of physical challenges, chats with celebrity guests and hilarious antics. More than seven million fans tuned into *Run Jin*'s most popular episode, Don't Watch This If You Don't Want To Marry Jin. Fans saw Jin in full 'dad mode' trying to impress and entertain Taeha, an adorable Korean child star.

Jin also returned to his first love – music! In October 2024, Jin gave us a special treat by finally releasing an official, full version of his popular comedy single, *Super Tuna*. He looked hilarious sunbathing and frolicking on the beach with a fake tuna and even proposing marriage too!

With the rest of BTS now taking part in their own active military service, it was left to Jin to greet J-Hope as he became the second member to be discharged. Wearing a stunning red suit and sunglasses, Jin ran to Hobi with a huge bouquet of flowers. Later, in an adorable moment, he crouched down to hold a huge collection of media microphones to help J-Hope deliver his discharge speech.

But he also has a serious side. In November 2024, he released his debut extended play, *Happy*. Perfectly capturing Jin's carefree, luminous personality and his gorgeous tenor vocals, the album's six tracks explore what happiness means to him. ▸



In Seoul, Big Hit Music hosted a pop-up event to promote the album, featuring exclusive photos and interactive zones exploring the EP's themes.

Jin pre-released a rockabilly-inspired song, *I'll Be There*, before starting promotions for the British rock-themed title track, *Running Wild*, throughout the world. He appeared on *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*, laughing with Jimmy about RM's "hectic" saxophone surprise during his military discharge and teaching him some iconic *Super Tuna* dance moves! Jin performed *Running Wild* in front of a live studio audience dressed in a striking green fringed jacket. The single earned Jin his second entry on the US Hot 100, with *Happy* later peaking at number four on the US Billboard 200 album chart.

Living up to his nickname, Jin took part in a special episode of the popular Korean variety show *Handsome Guys*. He also contributed the song *Close To You* to the Korean Netflix space drama *When The Stars Gossip*.

Proving that Jin's skin really is smooth like butter, he was unveiled as the first male global ambassador for the famous Korean skin care label Laneige, fronting a campaign for their bestselling Cream Skin 2-in-1 Toner & Moisturizer. Later, he became the face of the US athletic brand Alo Yoga, showing off his favourite styles from their casual collection as part of a year-long partnership promoting self-confidence, self-love and personal style.

In an incredible marketing stunt this year, Jin was announced as the global brand ambassador for Jin Ramen instant cup noodles. A staple foodstuff in Korea, the brand redesigned their packaging to celebrate Jin's very own 'Jinja Love Story' with their iconic noodles.

THE LOS ANGELES TIMES CALLED JIN'S AMERICAN SHOWS A "MASTERCLASS IN FAN CONNECTION"

With the BTS reunion fast approaching, Jin released his second solo effort, the pop-rock album *Echo*. Working with established Big Hit writers and producers Pdogg and Ghstloop alongside new talent including British DJ and record producer British Farm Animals, *Echo* dives deeper into genuine, emotional connection in everyday life. Jin also served as a producer on the album, which features a guest appearance from South Korean singer Yena.

Echo charted at number three on the US Billboard 200 album chart and was labelled "expansively romantic" by the iconic music magazine *Rolling Stone*. The album's melodic break-up-themed lead single *Don't Say You Love Me* shows Jin's evolving artistry as a vocalist. A cinematic video for the song set in Singapore stars South Korean actress Shin Se-Kyung. Jin performed the song on *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*, before embarking on his first worldwide solo concert tour, which started in South Korea in June, with Jin completing nine stops across Japan, North America, the UK and the Netherlands, where he performed at multiple arena venues.

Praised for his winning combination of silliness and sincerity, Jin performed a series of tracks from *Happy* and *Echo*, playing the piano and showing off his impressive vocal range. In a treat for fans, Jin also sang a BTS medley featuring *Dynamite*, *Butter*, *Mikrokosmos* and *Spring Day*. *The Los Angeles Times* called Jin's American shows a "masterclass in fan connection" – and we're inclined to agree!

FEATURE BY HADLEY MIDDLETON

"LIVING THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY FROM MY DAUGHTER IS REALLY HARD – BUT BTS HAVE HELPED BRING US CLOSER TOGETHER"

Across continents and the pandemic, Janet Puzzar found solace, joy and friendship through BTS – and proved that Army knows no age limit…

For many K-Pop fans, discovering BTS is more than just finding a group to love – it's finding a community, an inspiration and sometimes even a lifeline. For Janet Puzzar, a 66-year-old mum from Liverpool, England, BTS entered her life during a period of profound distance and uncertainty. With her daughter Caitlin living in Japan and the world in the grip of the pandemic, Janet faced three long years without seeing her only child in person. It was Caitlin – who has created an app for safeguarding children, called Guardian – who introduced her to the boys. Together they streamed a BTS concert across time zones – a shared experience that bridged continents and brought a spark of joy into the isolation of lockdown. ▸

“BTS HAVE BECOME A WELCOME DISTRACTION AND SOMETHING I FALL BACK ON WHEN TIMES GET A BIT TOUGH”

From that moment, BTS became more than entertainment – they became a source of comfort. “They help me escape the many other problems I’ve had – things like health issues and slight depression due to being in pain,” Janet told us. Her connection to the band, and to the messages they embody about self-love and perseverance, has grown steadily over the years. She admires not only their talent but their resilience, noting how the boys carried on despite personal struggles, all for the sake of their fans.

Janet’s fandom experience, however, hasn’t been without its challenges. As an older member of Army, she initially felt a gap in acceptance among younger fans at concerts. Yet, she found camaraderie with fellow fans her own age, forging friendships that make the experience even richer.

For Janet, BTS represents more than music – they’re a reminder that connection and hope can be found even in life’s toughest seasons...

Like many K-Pop fans, BTS found you when you needed them the most – tell us a bit about what was happening when you discovered the boys...

I’m a 66-year-old mum of one daughter, aged 29, and she introduced me to BTS back in 2020. During the pandemic, we were not able to see each other for three years – she lives in Japan and I’m based in Liverpool, England. One of my earliest experiences of BTS was when they streamed a concert and we watched it together. Despite the time difference and distance between us, my daughter and I watched it simultaneously. It helped to distract us from what was going on in the world with the pandemic and made us feel a little bit closer to each other. During that time, and since then with my daughter living overseas, BTS have become a welcome distraction for me and something I fall back on when times get a bit tough.

Tell us a bit about your relationship with your daughter and how difficult the pandemic was for you both being apart…
The pandemic was really hard. We couldn't go to Japan due to the restrictions, and it was too difficult and expensive for her to come home and use her leave from work to quarantine in another city at her own cost. Sadly we don't see each other that often – maybe once a year for a few weeks. But that was the longest time we'd ever been apart.

What was your reunion like when the pandemic was over and you did see each other in person again?
Our reunion was emotional to say the least. We finally met up in Australia for Christmas 2022 as Japan was still not allowing visitors at that time. We had a great Christmas with other family – it really was great. We also did a side trip to Brisbane. My daughter has settled in Japan now, she's lived there for almost ten years. And she's getting married – I've just flown out to meet her future in-laws!

Has your love for BTS got stronger in the years that have followed?
My love for the band has got stronger. Even now I lean on them because it's so hard being apart from my daughter – they take my mind off missing her. They also help me escape the many other problems I've had – things like health issues and slight depression due to being in pain.

What is it you love about the boys?
They are such lovely young men. Their ethos about loving yourself must have helped so many young people. What got me was that they were suffering but carried on for the sake of their fans, no matter at what cost to themselves. After their national service, I'm delighted that they all seem to be liberated now.

How do you find being an older member of BTS's Army? Are the younger fans welcoming?
I thought the younger fans would be more welcoming than they have been, to be honest. I didn't feel the warmth at the Jin gig that I thought I would. I went with older Army that I met through a UK Facebook group and we all felt the same, which was a shame as I've always heard such good things about the fandom. But I have made quite a few friends my own age through the group – two of whom live locally, so I'm happy to have found them.

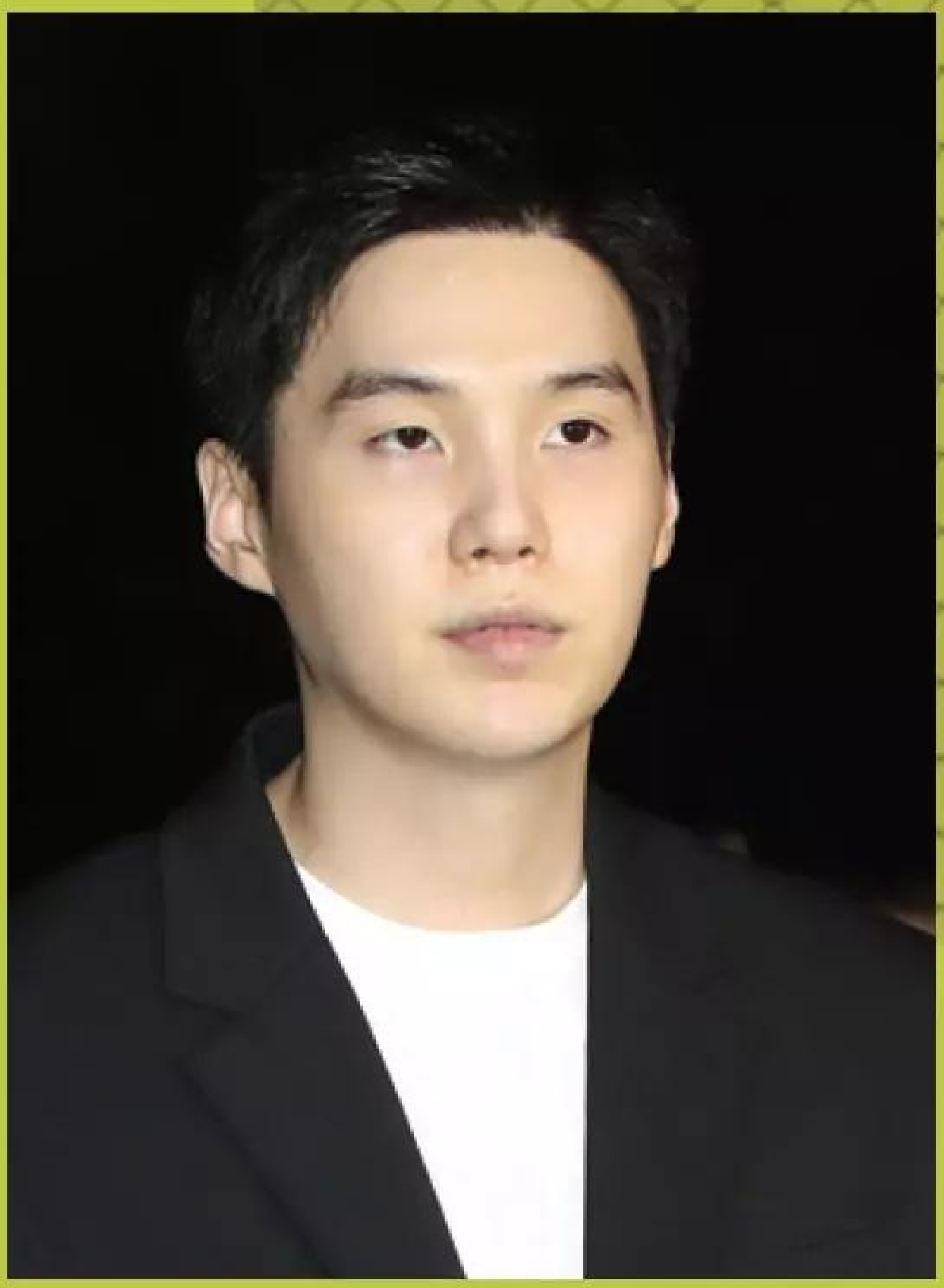
What does your husband think of your love for the boy band?
My husband thinks I'm mad but he indulges me because he knows they make me happy. He has said he will travel to see them with me, but he doesn't really fancy watching any of the shows. He took me to the Jin concert where I met other ladies, though, so he is really supportive of my love for the boys.

They've announced a 2026 tour – will you go to it with your daughter?
My daughter is very busy now so she doesn't have the time with work and wedding planning to keep up with the guys as much as I do. Plus she gravitates towards Stray Kids these days, because she likes the older BTS stuff. But I'll definitely try and go with some of my Army friends. I'm really excited!

INTERVIEW BY NANCY BROWN

SugA

He's a musical chameleon and
a force to be reckoned with –
underestimate him at your peril



Our multi-talented music producer, composer and lightning-speed rapper is no stranger to solo material. Since his early years performing as an underground rapper named Gloss, Yoongi has continued to release music under his established aliases, Suga and Agust D.

Before BTS announced their hiatus and began the process of individual enlistment for military service, Suga released a ten-track mixtape, 2016's *Agust D*. A collection of songs inspired by his own stories of dreams, youth and reality, the alter ego Agust D is derived from the initials DT (short for his birthplace Daegu Town) and "Suga" spelled backwards. Suga released a second mixtape, 2020's *D-2*, which peaked at number 11 on the US Billboard 200 album chart, and featured the hit solo song *Daechwita*, inspired by traditional Korean storytelling and percussion.

A true musical chameleon, Suga also agreed to co-write, produce and feature on the hit song *That That* with K-Pop legend Psy. An international smash hit, *That That* won seven Korean music programme awards, also nabbing Best Collaboration for Psy and Suga at the 2022 MAMA Awards.

Owing to a serious injury and necessary surgery to repair a torn labrum in his left shoulder, Suga was ruled unfit for regular combat duty in the Korean military. Instead, he would complete "alternative service" as a social service agent.

Before his enlistment, Suga threw himself into promotional activities in both music and presenting. In December 2022, he launched the popular talk show web series *Suchwita*, otherwise known as "time to drink with Suga"!

BEHIND THE SCENES, SUGA WAS BUSY PREPARING FOR THE RELEASE OF HIS OFFICIAL DEBUT STUDIO ALBUM, *D-DAY*

Throughout 27 episodes, Suga invited a series of guests to drink with him, interviewing them with care, curiosity and his signature dark humour. The first episode racked up more than eight million views on YouTube, with Suga interviewing his bandmate RM about the release of his debut solo album *Indigo*.

During the series, Suga interviewed his BTS bandmates about their solo projects and spoke with K-Pop stars like BigBang's Taeyang, rapper Tablo, and SHINee's Taemin. Over 17 million fans watched Suga's interview with Jungkook, which involved a karaoke machine and Suga reluctantly returning to the studio as his bandmate serenaded him with an impromptu performance of *That That*.

Behind the scenes, Suga was busy writing, producing and preparing for the release of his official debut studio album, *D-Day*. In early 2023, he was signed by fashion house Valentino to be their brand ambassador, and in a dream come true for our lifelong basketball fan, he also became an NBA ambassador for the 2022/23 season. The NBA even unveiled a capsule sportswear collection in collaboration with Suga, marked with his signature Agust D moniker.

Suga chose to release his debut album under the name of his famous alter ego. He is credited as a writer and producer on each of *D-Day*'s ten tracks, and the album features appearances from J-Hope, South Korean singer IU, and Woosung of indie rock band The Rose. ▶

Brave and thought-provoking, *D-Day* blends hip-hop, trap and harmony to confront difficult episodes in Suga's life from his shoulder injury to his father's cancer diagnosis. Suga experiments with auto-tune and traditional Korean string instruments to create intriguing social commentary. The album was ranked eighth in Billboard's 20th Best K-Pop Albums of 2023, selling one million copies in South Korea and charting at number two on the US Billboard 200.

Two singles were released to promote *D-Day* – a pop and hip-hop track, *People Pt.2*, and Suga's anthem of liberation, *Haegeum*. Nearly 100 million people have watched the stunning video for *Haegeum*, which is inspired by the bloody South-Korean thriller *Oldboy*.

Suga appeared on *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon* to talk about *D-Day*, while also marvelling at Jimmy's ability to play the haegeum, a South Korean traditional two-stringed fiddle. Suga performed *Haegeum* live in the studio, also taking part in a series of games where he faced off against Jimmy.

Throughout April, May, June and August 2023, Suga performed record solo shows throughout North America, Indonesia, Japan, Thailand, Singapore and South Korea. The *D-Day* tour earned rave reviews, with guest performances by Max, Halsey, Psy, Jungkook, Jimin and RM. The tour made over $57 million, with critics celebrating Suga's "breathtaking" stage presence and incredible production.

As the members prepared for their active-duty enlistment, Suga championed their efforts. On Jin's invitation, Suga was in the dressing room as Jin shaved off his hair ready for his enlistment day. He attended J-Hope's enlistment in April 2023 and later said goodbye to the Maknae Line in a public farewell that December.

In September 2023, Suga began his own official enlistment, sharing a farewell message on the social media platform Weverse. "I was able to come this far thanks to you. And the time has come. Be careful of the chilly autumn weather. Stay healthy and see you all in 2025," he wrote.

THE NEWS CREATED A MEDIA STORM IN KOREA, WHERE HE APOLOGISED ON SOCIAL MEDIA

As a social service agent working in Seoul, Suga kept a low profile. He completed three weeks of basic training and served a longer overall service period of two years due to his active-duty exemption.

Sadly, in August 2024, he made headlines around the world for the wrong reasons. After drinking alcohol during a meal out with friends, Suga fell over while driving an electric scooter. He was breathalysed by police and later fined for driving under the influence.

The news created a media storm in Korea, where he apologised on social media. "I fell while parking the electric scooter in front of my house, and there was a police officer nearby. Although no one was harmed and no property was damaged, this is entirely my responsibility with no excuses. I apologise to those who have been hurt by my carelessness and wrongful behaviour, and I will ensure that this does not happen again in the future," he said.

Thankfully, Suga has put the incident behind him. In June of this year, he officially completed his military service. Due to crowding concerns, the event was celebrated privately and instead, Army watched as Suga joined his brothers during their historic Weverse Live reunion broadcast. In a sign of his wonderful and generous spirit, Suga recently donated five billion Korean won for Seoul's Severance Hospital to establish a dedicated treatment centre for children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

"Over the last seven months preparing for the program launch and engaging in volunteer work, I have come to understand that music can be a positive outlet for expressing emotions and communicating with the world. I am so happy and grateful that I was able to participate in the treatment process for children with ASD," he said.

FEATURE BY HADLEY MIDDLETON

‘EVEN WHEN YOU FEEL ALONE, THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO LOVE YOU, AND WE ARE AMONG THEM’

BTS have been candid about their mental health struggles, with their openness helping tens of thousands of fans over the years…

Hailing from a land with one of the highest suicide rates in the world, BTS’s message has always been about more than just music. Their words have not only highlighted the importance of addressing mental health struggles in South Korea, but also helped normalise conversations around them.

They’ve shared their struggles not only to support their fans but also to hold one another up. For an industry built on gloss and perfection, this is revolutionary. They’ve admitted that behind the stadium lights are sleepless nights, panic and loneliness.

And that is why fans listen. Because in their words – sometimes tear-choked, sometimes scribbled into lyrics, sometimes shared in the quiet of a livestream – we see our own battles reflected back… ▶

LYRICS THAT HEAL

BTS's discography reads like a mental health diary. Songs become confessions, therapy set to melody.

JIN'S *EPIPHANY*:
"I'm the one I should love in this world, shining me, precious soul of mine."

SUGA'S *THE LAST*:
"On the other side of the famous idol rapper stands my weak self, it's a bit dangerous... depression, OCD, they keep coming back again."

***NOT TODAY*:**
"If you can't fly, run / If you can't run, walk / If you can't walk, crawl / even if you have to crawl, gear up."

***ANSWER: LOVE MYSELF*:**
"Loving myself might be harder than loving someone else... but I'll do it, step by step."

THE PANDEMIC PAUSE

When the world shut down in 2020, so did BTS's relentless schedule. For a group accustomed to airports and arenas, the sudden stillness was seismic. Jin reflected in *Teen Vogue*: "Being off the road for a year gave me a chance to really reflect on what I want and who I am, and sort of learn to love myself. Especially when we were on tour, there wasn't time to reflect on myself and figure out what gives me joy, what makes me relax. Not just myself, but other members really felt that. When we couldn't go on tour, everybody felt really a sense of loss, a sense of powerlessness, and we were all sad. And it actually took us a while to get over those feelings."

For Jimin, the pause forced him to turn inward: "I realised that we've been telling people to really love themselves and telling them to be stronger. That year, I began to tell myself these things as well, and convincing myself that this is also something I need to keep in mind."

Even J-Hope, often seen as the group's sunshine, confessed to complexity: "Everybody has different sides from what they show. If I express those [difficult] things, I think that also gives me a sense of consolation as well. We have been communicating with our fans ever since we became artists, but now I think it's become more natural and comfortable. Before we tried to only show them the good side, the bright side of us. As my name is J-Hope, I only tried to show the bright side of our group and myself. But as the time passes by, one cannot feel the same way forever so I also felt other emotions. I tried to express those emotions through music or dialogue, to express them in a very beautiful way."

BREAKING THE MASCULINITY MOULD

Part of BTS's power lies in how they dismantle stereotypes of masculinity in K-Pop. J-Hope admitted: "There are times when I felt like I only had to show the bright side, and it was burdensome. But I've realised I don't need to always pretend."

Jungkook's stage tears have become iconic – not as a sign of weakness, but authenticity.

And Suga also helped to drive the point home: "Mental health needs to be discussed and expressed. If we only ever show strength, people will think they're wrong for feeling weak. But it's okay to say you're not okay." ▸

> "I realised that joy isn't something grand. Watching movies, playing games, sleeping—those things make me happy. And that's enough."
>
> – JIN

SUGA: BREAKING STIGMA ONE TRUTH AT A TIME

Suga has been one of the most outspoken members about mental health, repeatedly challenging Korea's culture of silence. In an interview with *Entertainment Weekly*, he emphasised the importance of treating depression just the same as a health condition that you can 'see': "I think for not just us, but other celebrities, if they talk about it openly, if they talk about depression, for example, like it's the common cold, then it becomes more and more accepted if it's a common disorder. More and more, I think artists or celebrities who have a voice should talk about these problems and bring it up to the surface."

In *Rolling Stone*, he pushed this further: "People's conditions vary day by day. Sometimes you're in a good condition; sometimes you aren't. Based on that, you get an idea of your physical health. That same thing applies mentally. Some days you're in a good state; sometimes you're not. Many pretend to be okay, saying that they're not 'weak', as if that would make you a weak person. I don't think that's right. People won't say you're a weak person if your physical condition is not that good. It should be the same for the mental condition as well. Society should be more understanding."

Suga has been candid about his battles with OCD, social anxiety and depression, even weaving them into his solo work: "People who have the platform to talk about those things really should talk more, because they say depression is something where you go to the hospital and you're diagnosed, but you can't really know until the doctor talks to you."

By naming his pain, Suga has opened the space for millions of fans to name theirs: "These negative emotions may come back in a cycle over a year, year and a half. But if you think of them as something natural, like the seasons, then they become easier to handle."

> "Just as winter comes back every year, so do these feelings. They may be harsh, but they also pass. And then spring returns"

ARMY – A COMMUNITY OF CARE

The boys lit the spark, but Army built the fire. In 2020, fans launched the Army Help Center, partnering with Crisis Text Line to give global fans mental health support.

Fans often say BTS saved their lives, but it's reciprocal. As RM once told fans: "If I can be a little help to you, even if it's just as a small presence in your lives, that's enough. That's why I keep going."

As Jungkook once told fans mid-concert: "Don't forget that even when you feel alone, there are people who love you, and we are among them."

"I keep telling myself what I tell fans: that I need to love myself, that I need to take care of myself. Saying it out loud helps me believe it"

JIMIN: RUNNING TOWARDS SILENCE

Whereas Suga confronts stigma head-on, Jimin turns to quiet rituals for healing. In *Vogue*, he revealed how running became his anchor: "The reason I got into running was that the sound of the breeze silenced my inner voice. I used to hate being alone because there were too many thoughts going around in my head, and it scared me, but now I feel I need time alone. Running helps clear my mind."

This vulnerability contrasts with his polished on-stage persona. Yet it's this honesty that resonates with fans. Jimin shows that healing isn't grandiose; sometimes it's just lacing up his sneakers and chasing the wind.

THE FUTURE

With military service completed, solo projects under their belt and a comeback announced, the group's future looks different. But their legacy on mental health is already cemented. *Vogue Singapore* called them "the rare idols who made it okay to not be okay". The next step? Agencies listening, fans continuing to care for one another and the boys finding ways to heal beyond the stage. Because BTS didn't just break records, they broke silence. And that may be the most important revolution of all.

RM: A LEADER CRACKS

Kim Namjoon – aka frontman RM – has long been the anchor of the band, the voice of calm in chaos. But in a livestream earlier this year, his composure crumbled and his words were raw: "I cried all night, I kept saying I was going to die. Why are you so weak? You've been through more challenging times already. So why are you losing to things like sleep or the military?"

RM also confessed to battling severe insomnia during service, which he finished in June. He said: "There was a time when I did not get a single minute of sleep for two days, for about 78 hours... I remember thinking to myself, oh, I'm going to die at this rate. Like, I have to keep going with the daily schedule, but I'm running on no sleep."

Speaking earlier this summer, RM revealed that, eventually, he sought professional help: "The therapist diagnosed me with insomnia and gave me sleeping pills, which I've now been taking for one year and two months."

For a man who once told the UN to "love yourself", admitting to nightly breakdowns and medication was staggering. Yet fans rallied with compassion. His vulnerability proved what BTS have always said: even leaders, even icons, are human.

"I've been relying on sleeping pills for over a year. At first I hated it, but then I thought, if this helps me, it's not a shame"

FEATURE BY NANCY BROWN

JuNgKooK

The group's maknae was always concerned about living up to people's expectations – but he really needn't have worried

After spending most of his formative years as a trainee and the Golden Maknae of BTS, it's no surprise the group's youngest member used their hiatus to take a well-deserved break! It's fair to say that our maknae Jungkook has had an unpredictable few years during the group's hiatus, whether that's smashing global records, or sleeping on Weverse.

When BTS first announced their hiatus, Jungkook remained tight-lipped about his plans for solo activities. He collaborated with Grammy-winning singer Charlie Puth on the pop hit *Left And Right*, and had the honour of being the first Korean artist to release an official song for the 2022 FIFA World Cup. Kookie travelled to Qatar to perform *Dreamers* live at the official World Cup opening ceremony. Despite having limited time to learn and rehearse the choreography, JK smashed the elaborate performance, accompanied by a huge team of dancers.

After years of short, sexy hairstyles with BTS, Jungkook experimented with a new look, growing his hair long and showing off his impressive tattoos. In March 2023, he was unveiled as a global icon for Calvin Klein. Dressed in an iconic CK denim jacket, jeans and white briefs, JK enjoyed showing off his rock hard abs!

Meanwhile, fans waited eagerly for more music as JK teased us with a series of unforgettable livestreams. Streaming live from his Seoul apartment, JK entertained fans with karaoke, ramen cooking displays, drinking games and a 21-minute video of him sleeping!

HE ENTERTAINED FANS WITH KARAOKE, COOKING DISPLAYS AND A 21-MINUTE VIDEO OF HIM SLEEPING!

At last, in the summer of that year, JK released his first English-language single, *Seven*, featuring the American rapper Latto. The single introduced a very grown-up Jungkook, singing explicitly about sex for the first time. *Seven* became the fastest song in history to reach a billion streams on Spotify. A super-cool video follows Jungkook trying to win back his girlfriend, played by South Korean actress Han So-hee.

Seven sent JK's solo music into the stratosphere. Jungkook became the second South Korean solo artist, after his bandmate Jimin, to score a number one single on the US Billboard charts. He won a record number of Korean music programme awards, also nabbing Best Collaboration and Best Dance Performance at the MAMA Awards. Riding a wave of pop success, JK performed a mini concert in New York's Central Park as part of *Good Morning America*'s Summer Concert Series and on BBC Radio 1's Live Lounge, singing a soulful cover of *Let There Be Love* by Oasis.

More singles followed, including *3D* with rapper Jack Harlow. In a sign of JK's global appeal, R&B superstar Usher also featured on a remix version of his next smash hit, *Standing Next To You*.

For his debut all-English album, *Golden*, Jungkook worked with a new team of American producers, with guest appearances by Major Lazer and DJ Snake. Proving he's one of pop's best tenors, *Golden* catapulted to the top of the charts worldwide. He charted at number two on the US Billboard albums chart, at number three in the UK albums chart and went platinum twice over in South Korea. ▸

To celebrate *Golden*'s release, JK was interviewed on *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*. Jimmy introduced him to authentic NYC pizza, and quizzed him on why he thinks microwaves are the scariest things in the world!

Later, JK performed *Standing Next To You* live in the studio with his signature all-male dance crew. The performance, with its intricate choreography, has since been viewed almost 20 million times, with fans expressing their astonishment at JK's effortless vocal acrobatics.

Back in Korea, Jungkook reflected on his global success on bandmate Suga's variety web series, *Suchwita*. In a hilarious intro, Suga played clips of JK's karaoke rendition of *Daechwita*. During their chat, Jungkook seemed more interested in the food, drink and karaoke than promoting his album. But later, he reflected on his feelings as the group's youngest member, confiding that he'd always worried about living up to people's expectations.

Meanwhile, Jungkook became the first BTS member to blow up on TikTok, posting incredible solo dance videos and group dance practices from *Golden*. A dance collab with Usher has racked up more than 168 million views, while a sexy video of Jungkook dancing shirtless has also been seen over 100 million times!

Riding high on a wave of global pop success, Jungkook began his military service with Jimin in December 2023. The pair chose to enlist under the South Korean military's buddy system, meaning they'd serve together in the same unit. JK served as a military cook, reaching out to fans via Weverse. "How are you, Army?" he wrote. "I'm doing well. I've been exercising diligently. We've been doing thorough cleaning, even up to the ceilings!"

Before enlisting, JK enjoyed a final holiday with his buddy Jimin, filming an exclusive travel series for Disney+, *Are You Sure?!*.

> **THE CHARMING SERIES SHOWED JIMIN AND JUNGKOOK AT THEIR BROTHERLY BEST**

Over eight episodes, fans followed the dynamic duo as they visited Connecticut in the USA, South Korea's Jeju Island, and Sapporo, Japan. V made a cameo in the series, and the pair also called a very grumpy Suga, who complimented JK's solo live performances during the *Golden* promotional tour!

The charming series showed Jimin and Jungkook at their brotherly best. JK was recognised by Army in an American grocery store and went viral during a canoe trip when he fell out and lost his phone. Adorable scenes saw JK teasing Jimin about an upset stomach, throwing snowballs in the snowy streets of Japan, and flexing his muscles in the hot tub. Fans loved the scenes of JK and Jimin singing together in their car, and Jimin riding on the back of Jungkook's cool Harley-Davidson motorcycle.

In June this year, the duo stepped out together at their military discharge ceremony. Saluting for the cameras and holding bouquets of flowers, they both appeared more shy than usual, but ready to be back together with their brothers. "I'm a bit embarrassed because I didn't even put on make-up, so I don't know what to say," Jungkook told the waiting reporters. Later that day, JK and Jimin appeared on a surprise Weverse broadcast to share their gratitude.

"The most I want to say to the fans is that I'm so grateful for waiting in a place where I can't do anything," Jungkook expressed during the live broadcast. "I hope there will be a day when I can prepare and repay you."

Since being discharged from military service, JK has surprised fans with a live performance of *I Wonder* at one of J-Hope's recent concerts. He's also returned to Instagram, proudly announcing the launch of his official new account @mnijungkook, or "my name is Jungkook"!

FEATURE BY HADLEY MIDDLETON

BTS'S RECORD SWOT SHOP

PERSONA
MAP OF THE SOUL
花様年華
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OF THE SOUL 7
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JUNG KOCK
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V
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The 3rd Mini Album
화양연화
花樣年華
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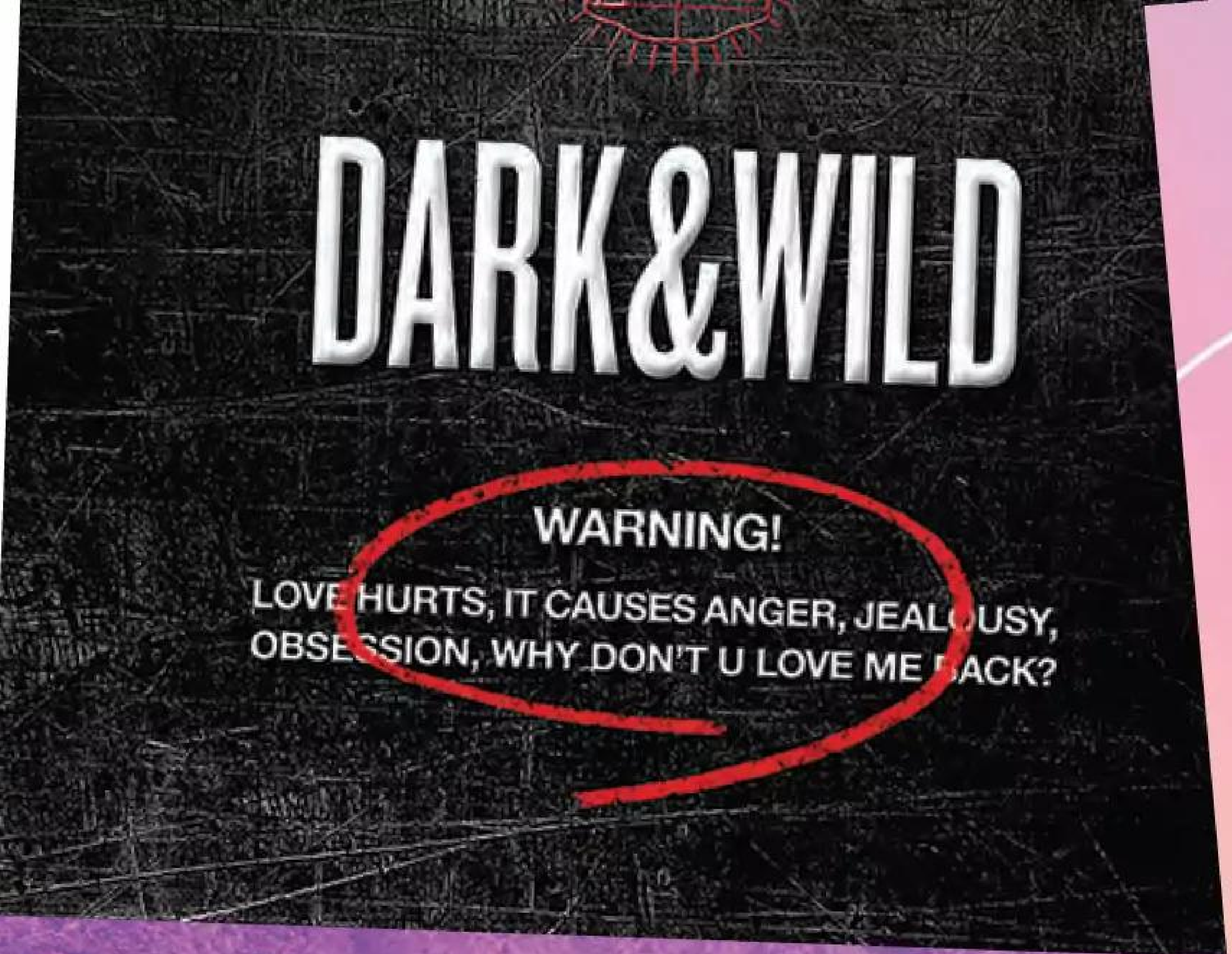
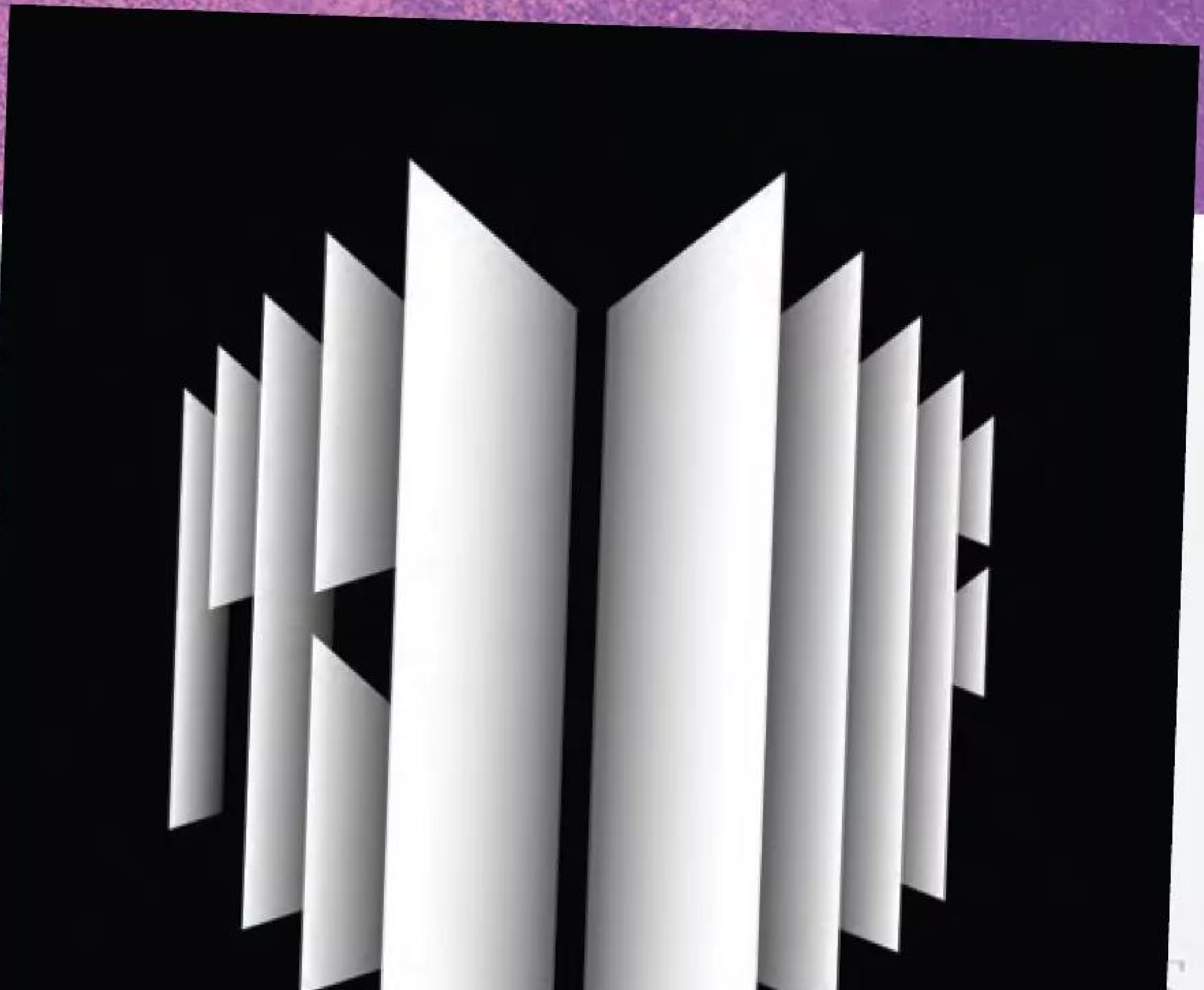
花樣年華

BE
2020. 11. 20 RELEASE


DARK&WILD
WARNING!
LOVE HURTS, IT CAUSES ANGER, JEALOUSY, OBSESSION, WHY DON'T U LOVE ME BACK?

In the summer of 2025, BTS filled our hearts with joy when they announced that they were planning to get back to doing what they do best – making glorious music again. While we have a few months to go before we hear the fruits of their labour, it's a great time to hold some space, reflect on the stunning tunes they have served us over the years and whet our appetite for what's to come.
Sit back and enjoy…

YOU
NEVER
WALK
ALONE



2
COOL
BTS
防彈少年團
SKOOL
4

2 COOL 4 SKOOL

(Single Album)

RELEASE DATE: JUNE 12 2013

On May 27 2013, Big Hit Entertainment announced the debut of a new hip-hop boy band: BTS. Introduced with a trailer narrated by leader RM (then Rap Monster), the group unveiled their first single album *2 Cool 4 Skool* the following month. Drawing on '90s hip-hop, the record highlights BTS's youthful defiance, tackling lost dreams and resisting societal pressure. Produced by Pdogg, "Hitman" Bang, Supreme Boi and BTS members RM, J-Hope, and Suga, the album peaked at number five in South Korea and includes two hidden tracks.

The album begins with *Intro: 2 Cool 4 Skool*, where RM boldly declares the arrival of Bangtan Boys. It launches into *We Are Bulletproof Pt.2*, an aggressive hip-hop anthem featuring fierce raps from RM, Suga and J-Hope, balanced by Jimin's catchy chorus. *Skit: Circle Room Talk* follows, offering a playful glimpse of the members' real conversations about dreams and fears.

No More Dream's music video has since surpassed 300 million views. Afterward, the brief *Interlude* softens the mood, before *Like* captures youthful heartbreak through tender harmonies from the vocal line.

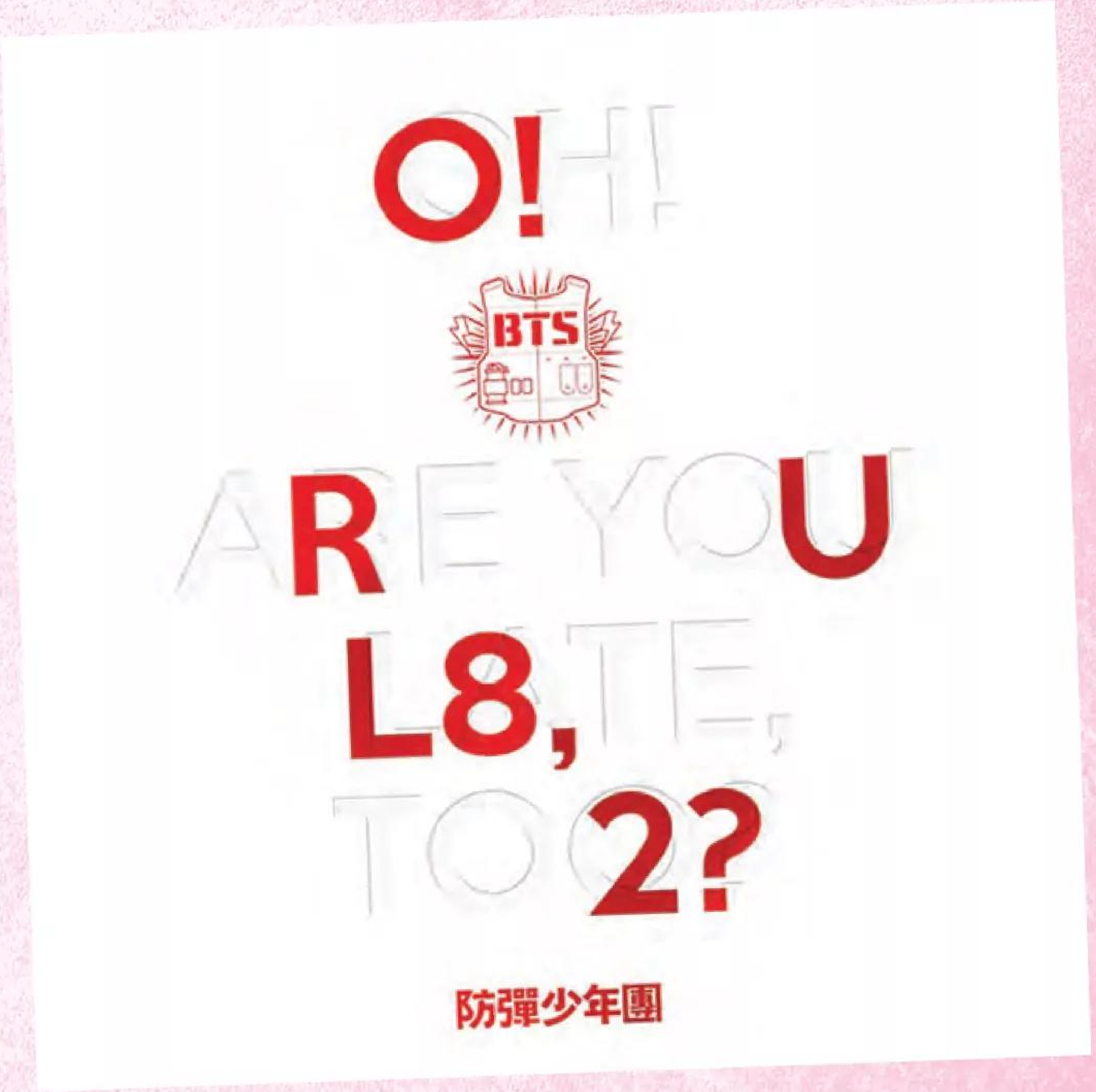
BTS's camaraderie shines in *Outro: Circle Room Cypher*, a humorous freestyle. Hidden track *Skit: On The Start Line*, written by RM, reflects on his transition from trainee to idol. The closing piece, *Path*, penned by RM, J-Hope, and Suga, imagines alternate futures while affirming their shared journey forward.

2 Cool 4 Skool set the foundation for BTS's artistry – mixing raw hip-hop energy with honest reflections.

Only a few months after their debut, BTS returned with their second record, *O!RUL8,2?* (read: Oh! Are you late, too?). The title asks a piercing question: are you chasing your dreams, or have you already fallen behind? Produced by Pdogg, Slow Rabbit and Supreme Boi, the EP carries forward the group's raw hip-hop identity, mixing rapid-fire raps, trap beats and soulful melodies with socially conscious lyrics.

Where *2 Cool 4 Skool* introduced BTS as rebellious rookies, *O!RUL8,2?* deepens their message, exposing the struggles of a generation crushed by academic pressure and rigid expectations. The album's ten tracks cut between fiery anthems, playful skits and tender R&B moments, revealing the group's growing versatility. The promotional single *N.O* became the project's centerpiece, a bold rallying cry against South Korea's punishing education system. Its futuristic music video shows the members breaking free from a dystopian classroom, a metaphor for their refusal to conform. BTS brought this song to life on major Korean music shows and met fans at signing events nationwide. They also performed at the MBC Cheongju K-Pop Festival, further cementing their reputation as rising stars.

Other highlights include *Attack On Bangtan*, a foot-stomping anthem declaring the unstoppable rise of the group; *Paldogangsan*, a witty track that embraces Korean regional dialects while celebrating the members' roots; and *Coffee*, an R&B reflection on lost love. True to their playful side, BTS also included candid skits, giving fans a behind-the-scenes glimpse of their banter and personalities.



O!RUL8,2?

(Mini Album)

RELEASE DATE: SEPTEMBER 11 2013

SKOOL LUV AFFAIR

(Mini Album)

RELEASE DATE: FEBRUARY 12 2014

RAP MONSTER
SUGA
JUNG KOOK
JIMIN
V
J-HOPE
JIN
BTS
2ND MINI
SKOOL LUV AFFAIR
NO SCHOOL
Wed. 12. Feb

Skool Luv Affair was the record that marked their breakthrough beyond Korea, pushing them into European and US markets. The album's ten tracks highlight both BTS's playful energy and their growing sophistication.

The rap line – RM, Suga, and J-Hope – open with *Intro: Skool Luv Affair*, a thematic bridge between the fiery social critiques of *O!RUL8,2?* and a new exploration of love. *Boy In Luv*, produced by Pdogg and inspired by old-school icons like Beastie Boys and Run-DMC, became the standout track. Its music video, which now boasts over 460 million YouTube views, casts the members as rough-around-the-edges schoolboys vying for a classmate's attention – from Suga on the basketball court to Jimin's rose-in-hand proposal.

The EP also includes candid moments: *Skit: Soulmate* captures a studio conversation with producer Bang Si-hyuk. Tracks like *Where You From* and *Just One Day* reveal the group's softer, flirtatious side, the latter featuring tender harmonies and a beloved "chair choreography" performance video. Suga's trainee-era composition *Tomorrow* reflects on the daunting responsibilities of young adulthood, while *BTS Cypher Pt.2: Triptych* sees the rap line wrestle with balancing hip-hop roots and idol expectations. *Spine Breaker* critiques generational clashes over materialism, sampling Korean legend Song Chang-sik. The showcase favourite *Jump*, originally written by RM and Suga, features V's deep vocals. Finally, *Outro: Propose*, penned by Slow Rabbit, closes the album with a heartfelt piano ballad from the vocal line.

IT WAS THE RECORD THAT MARKED THEIR BREAKTHROUGH BEYOND KOREA

DARK & WILD

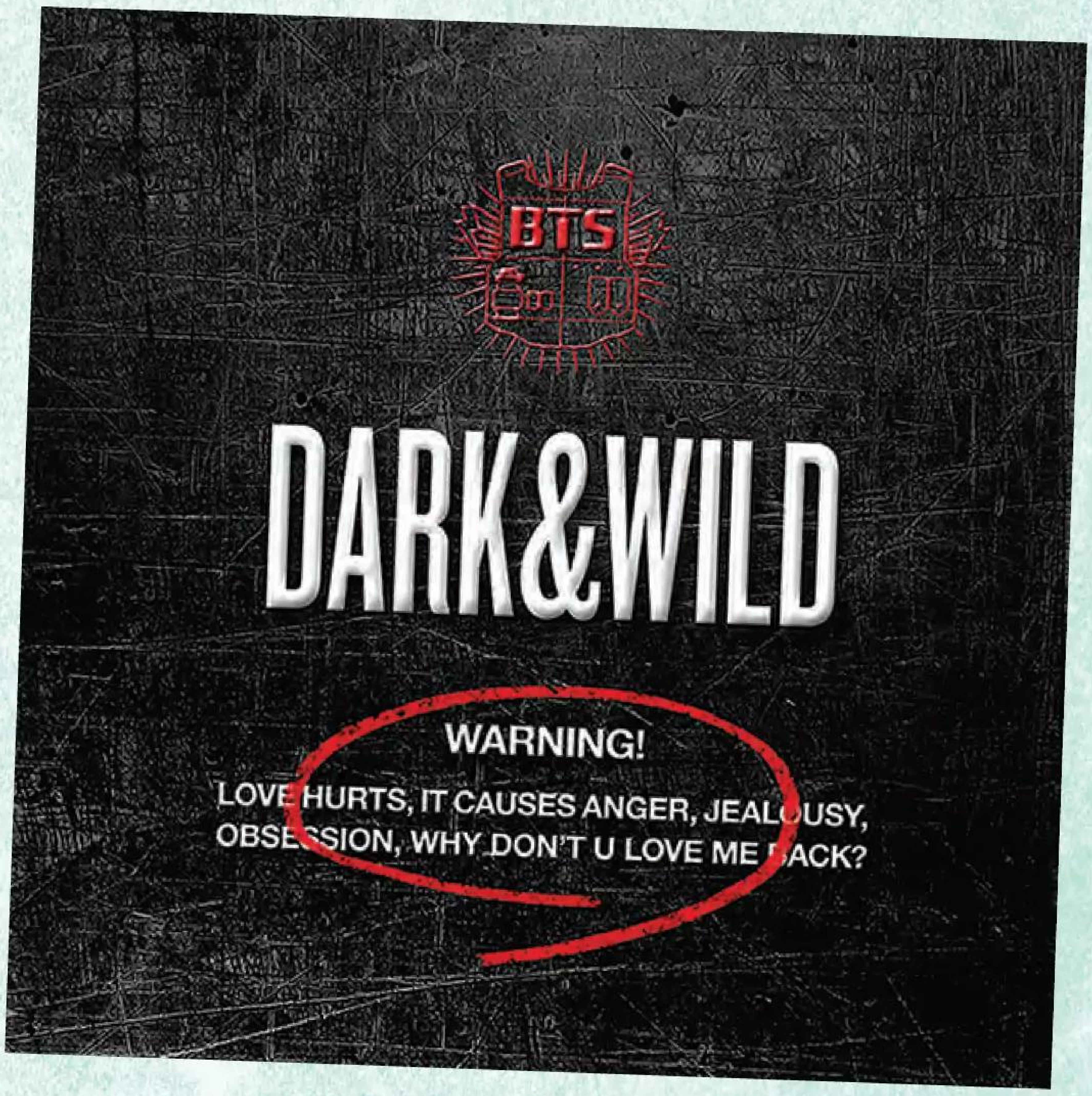
(Studio Album)

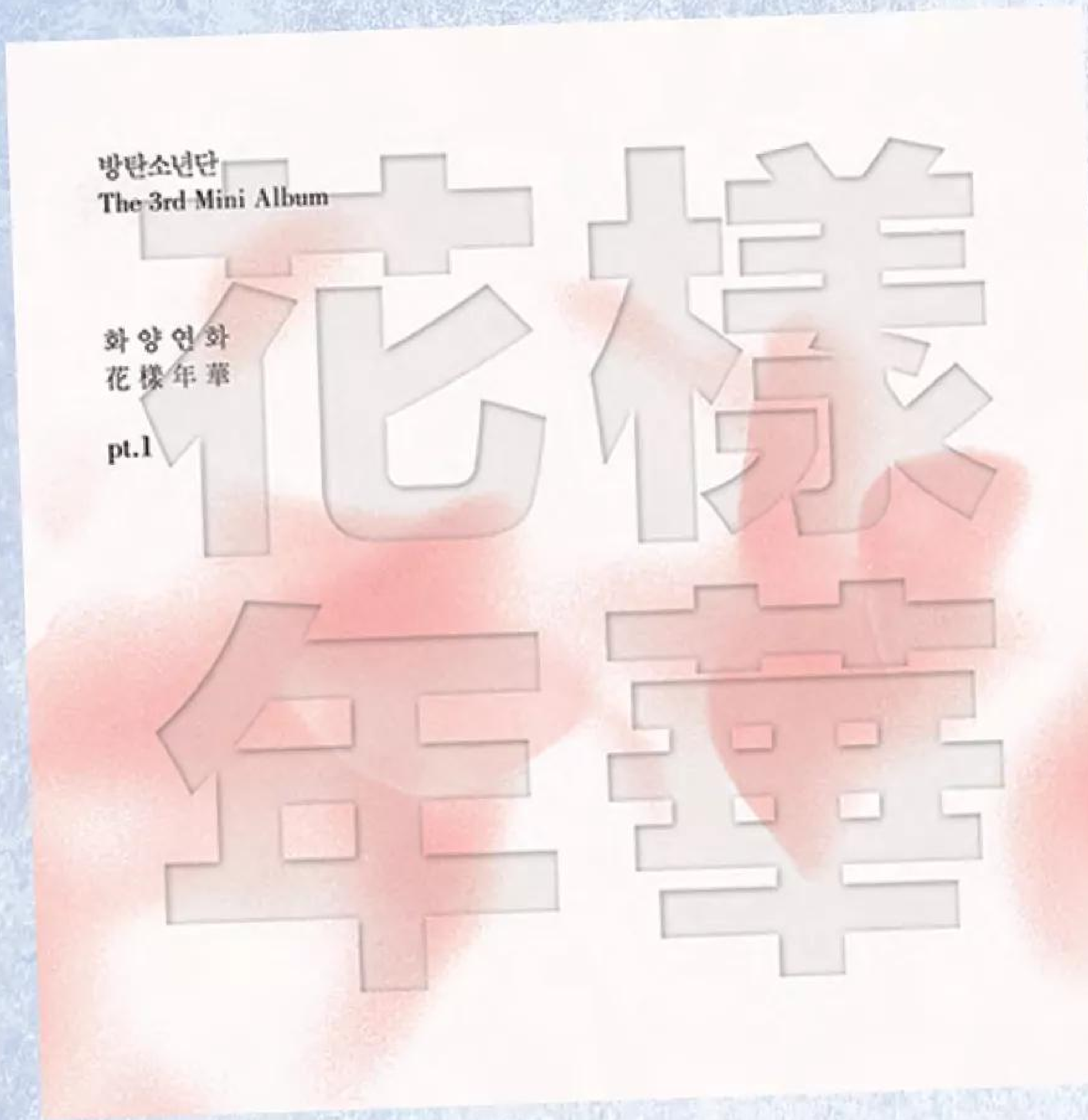
RELEASE DATE: AUGUST 20 2014

BTS's first full-length studio album *Dark & Wild* marked a turning point in their career. Expanding their sound beyond the raw, school-themed trilogy of earlier releases, the record blends edgy trap-driven hip-hop with smoother pop and R&B influences. Recorded in the United States, the album was promoted with extensive fan meet tours in Korea, Singapore and Japan, reflecting BTS's growing global presence. Thanks to their rapidly rising popularity and loyal fans, *Dark & Wild* became the 14th bestselling album of 2014 in Korea. A dramatic comeback trailer, narrated by RM, set the tone for a darker, more dangerous concept.

The album spawned two singles: *Danger*, a high-energy track combining pounding beats, acrobatic choreography and pop-rap hooks, and *War Of Hormone*, a playful yet controversial song that later sparked reflection within the group about misogyny in lyrics. Beyond the singles, *Dark & Wild* showcased BTS's versatility. RM opened the album with *Intro: What Am I To You*, a stirring solo rap. Tracks like *Let Me Know* spotlighted V's emotive vocals, while *Rain* offered introspective storytelling. The rap line continued their celebrated freestyle tradition with *BTS Cypher Pt.3: Killer*, featuring longtime collaborator Supreme Boi.

Other highlights include *Hip Hop Lover,* a homage to the group's idols from Nas to Eminem; *Can You Turn Off Your Phone*, a sharp critique of shallow communication in the smartphone era; and *Embarrassed (Blanket Kick)*, a playful ode to the cringe of young love. Softer moments came with *24/7=Heaven* and *Look Here*, co-written with electronic musician Lee Ho-hyeong. *2nd Grade* cleverly addressed BTS's sophomore year in the industry, while *Outro: Does That Make Sense?* closed the album with a soulful plea for lost love.


BTS
DARK&WILD
WARNING!
LOVE HURTS, IT CAUSES ANGER, JEALOUSY, OBSESSION, WHY DON'T U LOVE ME BACK?



THE MOST BEAUTIFUL MOMENT IN LIFE, PT.1

(Mini Album)

RELEASE DATE: APRIL 29 2015

In 2015, BTS unveiled a new artistic direction with *The Most Beautiful Moment In Life* trilogy, marking a dramatic shift from the aggressive hip-hop of their debut era to more nuanced explorations of youth, love and vulnerability. Critically acclaimed, it earned a nomination for Album Of The Year at the 2015 Mnet Asian Music Awards. Its lead single, *I NEED U*, became a career-defining success, securing BTS their first series of Korean music show wins.

The record opens with *Intro: The Most Beautiful Moment In Life*, a haunting solo from Suga layered with breathy vocals and existential reflection. It sets the stage for *I NEED U*, a landmark track blending R&B riffs with aching vocals, praised by *Billboard* as one of the 100 greatest K-Pop songs of the 2010s. Its video reached one million views within 16 hours, a sign of the group's rapidly growing global pull.

Other highlights deepen the album's emotional palette: *Hold Me Tight*, co-written by V and the rap line, captures the desperation of fading love, while *Dope* injects brass-driven energy and intricate choreography, becoming a fan favorite with a video now surpassing 800 million views. Playful tracks such as *Boyz With Fun* and *Converse High* showcase BTS's humour and retro-hip-hop edge, while *Moving On* delivers nostalgia and tenderness as the members reflect on leaving trainee life behind.

As with previous albums, BTS included candid interludes: *Skit: Expectation!* mixes ambition with lightheartedness, famously cutting to Jungkook musing on tax deductions. The project closes with *Outro: Love Is Not Over*, co-written by Jungkook, where the vocal line offers a delicate meditation on the fragility of love.

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL MOMENT IN LIFE, PT.2

(Mini Album)

RELEASE DATE: NOVEMBER 30 2015

Three days before unveiling the second chapter of their coming-of-age trilogy, BTS launched *The Most Beautiful Moment In Life* tour, playing 22 shows across Asia and expanding their growing fanbase. *Pt.2* quickly proved to be another breakthrough: it became BTS's first album to chart on the US Billboard 200 and ranked as the fifth bestselling album of the year in South Korea. Released with two cover variations in peach and pastel blue, the record was produced by Suga alongside longtime collaborators Pdogg, Slow Rabbit, and "Hitman" Bang.

The album opens with *Intro: Never Mind*, a stirring rap performed by RM, Suga, and J-Hope. Its message of perseverance resonated deeply with fans – so much so that Jimin later tattooed the title across his torso. The lead single, *Run*, captured the exuberance and recklessness of youth, pairing poignant lyrics with a video filled with playful chaos. It scored multiple Korean music show wins and was performed at the 2015 Mnet Asian Music Awards in Hong Kong.

Elsewhere, the EP reveals new artistic depth. *Butterfly* lets the vocal line shine, its fragile beauty performed on several Korean broadcasts. *Whalien 52* layers metaphor with melancholy, comparing isolation to the lonely cry of the 52-hertz whale. *Ma City* celebrates the members' hometown pride, while *Silver Spoon (Baepsae)* became an enduring fan favourite, skewering Korea's social inequalities with wit and swagger.

The tracklist also includes *Skit: One Night In A Strange City*, recorded in Chile and full of playful banter; *Autumn Leaves (Goyeop)*, a Suga-produced meditation on passing time and fading love; and *Outro: House Of Cards*, a sultry vocal number.

방탄소년단
The 4th Mini Album
화양연화
花樣年華
pt.2
花樣
年華
2
BTS

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL MOMENT IN LIFE: YOUNG FOREVER

(Compilation Album)

RELEASE DATE: MAY 2 2016

YOUNG FOREVER
BTS

Closing the second chapter of their career, BTS released *The Most Beautiful Moment In Life: Young Forever*, their first compilation album. Collecting 23 tracks from *Pt.1* and *Pt.2* alongside three powerful new singles, the record cemented their transition from rising rookies to K-Pop's elite. The album marked their second consecutive appearance on the U.S. Billboard 200 and won Album Of The Year at the 2016 Melon Music Awards, triumphing over heavyweight acts like EXO and Psy.

The new tracks expanded BTS's artistry. *Fire* became one of their most electrifying singles, a relentless electro-house anthem paired with pyrotechnic visuals and viral choreography. Released the day of the album, its video exploded online, while live performances – including at the 2016 Mnet Asian Music Awards – showcased the group's emerging performance artistry. *Save Me*, with its tropical house beats and lyrical choreography, offered a striking contrast. Filmed in a barren wasteland, the video's minimalist style underscored the song's yearning vocals and signature whistle; it has since amassed more than 700 million views. Closing the compilation, *Epilogue: Young Forever* reflected on BTS's journey and the pressures of success. During their 2019 *Speak Yourself* tour, fans' surprise singalong of the chorus moved the members to tears.

The two-CD set also included remixes of *I NEED U* and *Run*, full-length editions of *House Of Cards* and *Love Is Not Over*, and fan-favourite tracks like *Whalien 52*, *Moving On* and *Butterfly*.

WINGS

(Solo Album)

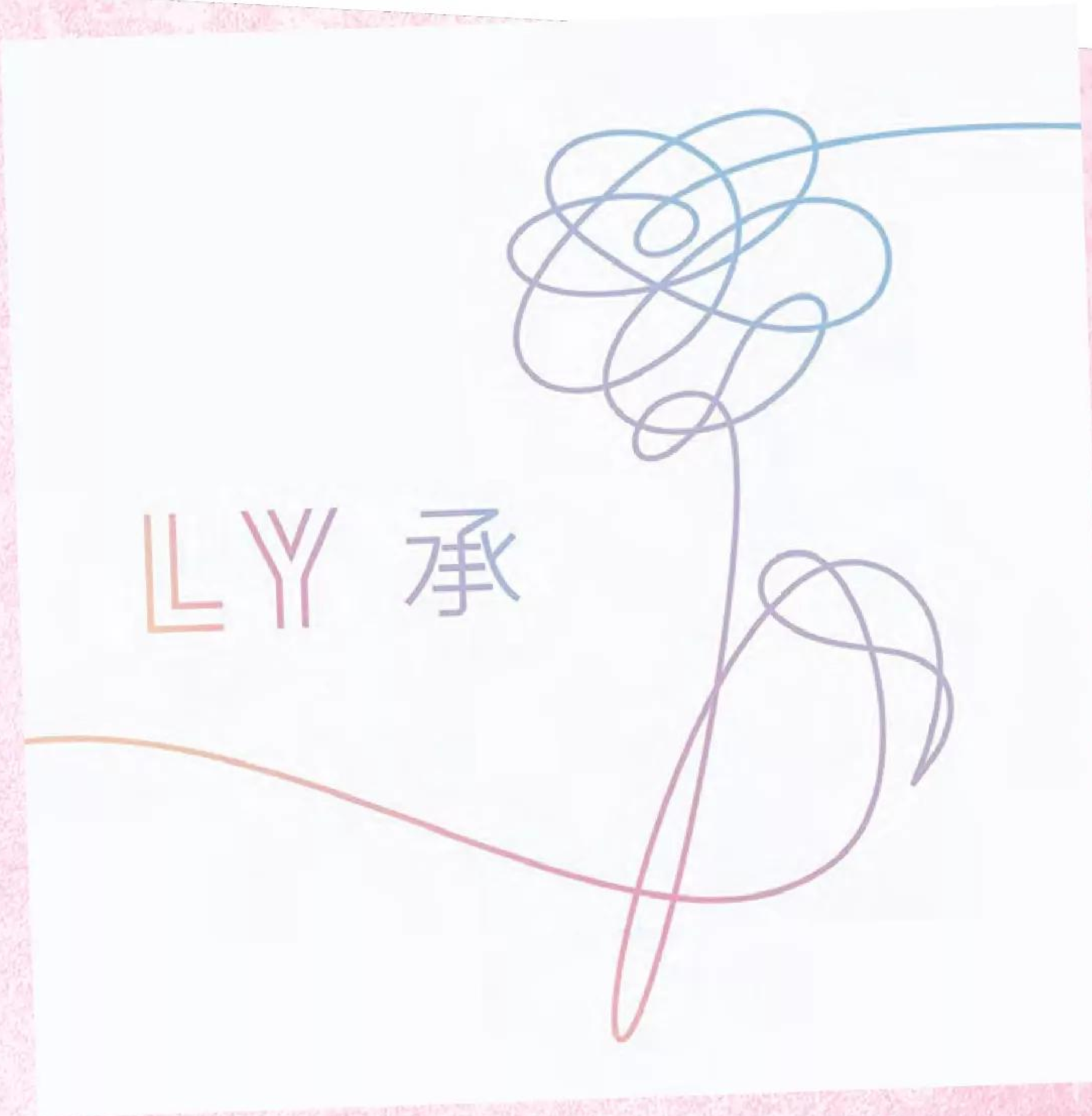
RELEASE DATE: OCTOBER 10 2016

With *Wings*, BTS set their sights on global superstardom, delivering their most ambitious and conceptually daring release to date. The group's second full-length Korean album drew inspiration from Jungian psychology and Hermann Hesse's coming-of-age novel *Demian*, exploring duality, temptation and enlightenment. Across 15 tracks – including solo songs for each member – BTS expanded their sound with new producers while retaining their trusted collaborators.

The album opens with J-Hope's dramatic *Intro: Boy Meets Evil*, a rap meditation on twisted reality. Its lead single, *Blood Sweat & Tears*, blends trap, tropical house and reggaeton rhythms into one of K-Pop's most iconic songs. The lavish music video, now with over one billion views, helped the group secure multiple awards, including Best Dance Performance at the 18th Mnet Asian Music Awards.

Each member's solo track adds a distinct voice: Jungkook's *Begin* reflects on his growth as the youngest member; Jimin's *Lie* captures temptation with orchestral strings; V's jazzy *Stigma* seeks forgiveness; Suga's *First Love* ties music to memory; RM's introspective *Reflection* marks his evolution beyond Rap Monster; J-Hope's gospel-inspired *MAMA* thanks his mother; and Jin's emotional ballad *Awake* showcases his songwriting and later received a holiday version for his birthday.

Other highlights include the vocal line's hopeful *Lost*; the fiery *BTS Cypher Pt.4*; the socially aware *Am I Wrong*; and *21st Century Girl*, a feminist anthem performed at music shows. *Two! Three!* directly thanks fans for their support, while *Interlude: Wings* closes the record with themes of growth and temptation.



LOVE YOURSELF: HER

(Mini Album)

RELEASE DATE: SEPTEMBER 18 2017

Following the groundbreaking success of *Wings*, BTS returned with a bold new concept series: *Love Yourself*. Produced by longtime collaborator Pdogg, the opening instalment *Love Yourself: Her* explored the blissful highs of young love. It became the bestselling album in South Korea in 2017 and debuted at number seven on the US Billboard 200, the highest-charting K-Pop album in history at the time.

The record begins with *Intro: Serendipity*, a soft R&B ballad delivered by Jimin, showcasing his sensual tone as lead vocalist. *DNA* fused EDM drops with a whistle-hook melody, embodying cosmic passion. Its kaleidoscopic video has surpassed 1.6 billion views, while the group's performance at the 2017 American Music Awards marked their US TV debut.

Other highlights demonstrate the album's stylistic range: *Best Of Me*, co-written with The Chainsmokers' Andrew Taggart, pulses with EDM-pop energy; *Dimple*, produced with Matthew Tishler and co-written by RM, charms with playful sweetness; and *Pied Piper* addresses fandom devotion with tenderness and wit. *Skit: Billboard Music Awards Speech* captures the group's 2017 Top Social Artist win, their first international award.

The swaggering *MIC Drop* blends hip-hop, trap and EDM in a fiery call-out to doubters, later remixed by Steve Aoki into a global hit. The satirical *Go Go* critiques materialism with tropical house beats, while *Outro: Her* closes with soulful raps from the rap line.

The physical album also includes hidden gems *Skit: Hesitation And Fear And Sea*.

YOU
NEVER
WALK
ALONE

YOU NEVER WALK ALONE

(Repackage Album)

RELEASE DATE: FEBRUARY 13 2017

As BTS prepared to launch their *Wings* tour, spanning 40 shows across Asia, South America, Australia, and the US, they reissued *Wings* as a celebratory repackage album: *You Never Walk Alone*. Featuring the original tracklist plus three new songs, the record carried the group's themes of temptation, growth, and resilience into fresh territory. Its cover art – an empty seaside bus stop in Gangneung, Gangwon Province – has since become a pilgrimage site for fans. The album became the third bestselling record of 2017 in South Korea, also charting worldwide. Promotions included performances of the new singles *Spring Day* and *Not Today* on Mnet's *M Countdown*.

The centrepiece, *Spring Day*, is often hailed as BTS's finest song. A midtempo hip-hop ballad laced with metaphors of love, loss, and grief, it earned universal acclaim and topped multiple music shows. The track won Song Of The Year at the Melon Music Awards and Best Music Video at the Mnet Asian Music Awards, with many interpreting it as a tribute to the 2014 Sewol Ferry tragedy. Its timeless resonance has kept it in BTS's live setlists, from their Tiny Desk Concert for NPR to the Dear Class Of 2020 showcase.

In contrast, *Not Today* channelled the fiery energy of BTS's early years. With ambitious choreography, epic visual effects, and squads of backing dancers, the video became a viral success with hundreds of millions of views. Performed at the 2017 KBS Song Festival and other stages, the song became a rallying cry for young people to resist and persevere.

LOVE YOURSELF: TEAR

(Studio Album)

RELEASE DATE: MAY 18 2018

As BTS's *Love Yourself* narrative deepened, so did its emotional weight. *Love Yourself: Tear* explored themes of despair, disconnection and painful separation, pairing lyrical vulnerability with bold sonic experimentation. It debuted at number one on the US Billboard 200, the first K-Pop album ever to top the chart, and became BTS's first UK top ten album.

The album opens with V's haunting solo *Intro: Singularity*, an R&B slow jam written by RM and paired with mask-themed choreography. The centerpiece, *Fake Love*, blends electric guitar, trap beats and intricate choreography, its video surpassing 1.3 billion views. The track became BTS's first US top ten single.

The vocal line's ballad *The Truth Untold*, produced with Steve Aoki, draws on the legend of the fictional Smeraldo flower. Other standout tracks include *134340*, a funky metaphorical ode to Pluto; *Paradise*, co-written by MNEK, which reassures fans against relentless societal pressure; and *Love Maze*, a DJ Swivel collaboration exploring trust and endurance. Jungkook co-wrote *Magic Shop*, a song of healing for fans, while *Airplane Pt.2* delivered Latin rhythms co-written by Ali Tamposi, performed on *Ellen* and Korean broadcasts.

Playful fan-favourite *Anpanman* likens BTS to a bread-headed superhero, while *So What* bursts with carefree, synth-driven energy. The rap line closes with *Outro: Tear*, a raw, confessional track about separation and resilience, later revealed to be inspired by a near-disbandment moment.

LOVE YOURSELF: ANSWER

(Compilation Album)

RELEASE DATE: AUGUST 24 2018

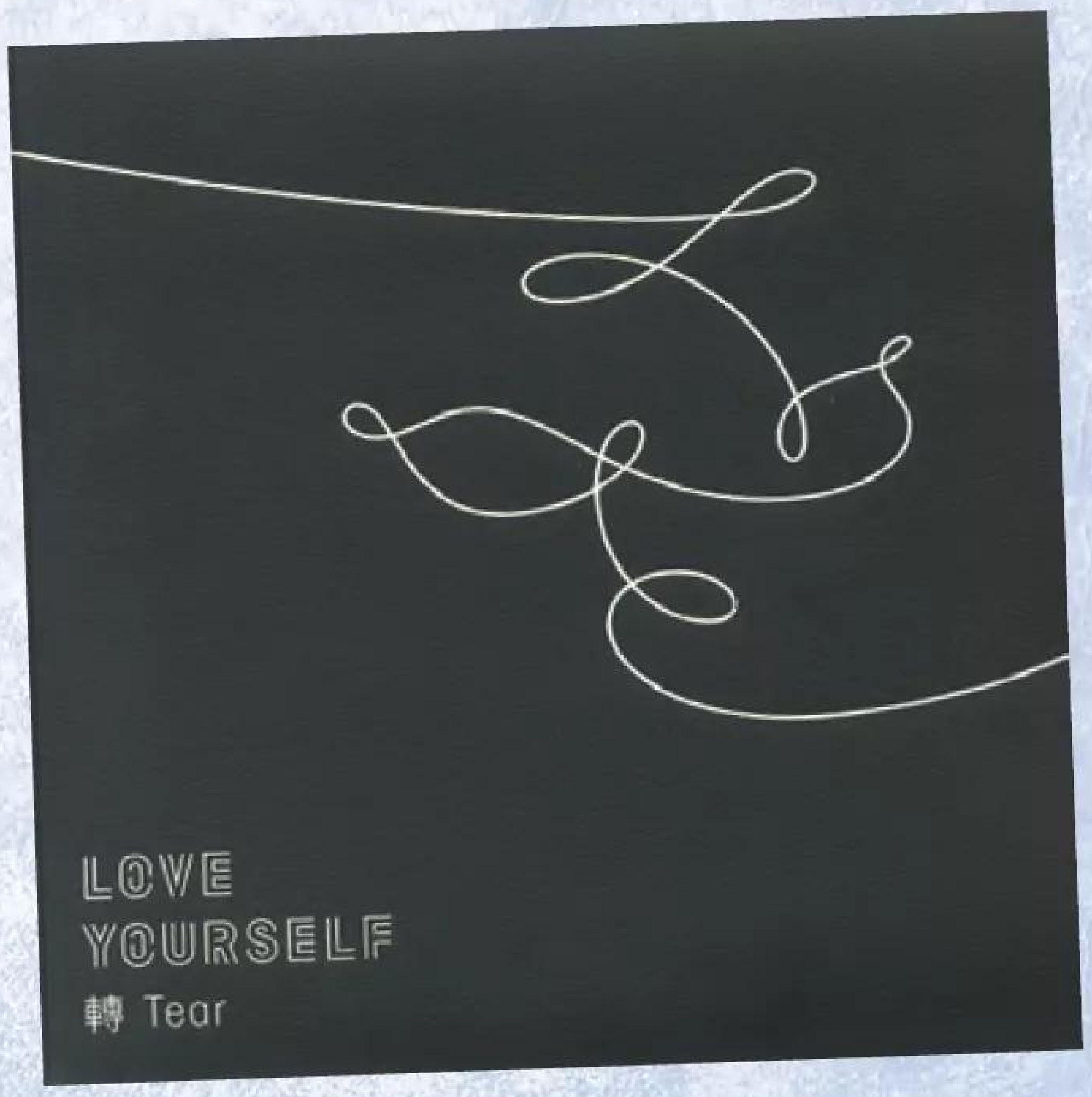
IT TOPPED CHARTS IN SOUTH KOREA, JAPAN, CANADA AND THE US, SPENDING A FULL YEAR ON THE BILLBOARD 200

In August 2018, BTS released *Love Yourself: Answer*, the final chapter in their *Love Yourself* trilogy and their most expansive record to date. A 25-track compilation of songs from *Her* and *Tear* alongside seven new additions and remixes, the album marked a global milestone. It topped charts in South Korea, Japan, Canada and the US, spending a full year on the Billboard 200. Soon after, BTS embarked on their *Love Yourself* world tour, while in September, RM delivered his now iconic speech at the UN General Assembly, urging young people everywhere to "speak yourself" and embrace self-love.

The album opens with Jungkook's soaring solo *Euphoria*, produced by DJ Swivel, followed by J-Hope's vibrant *Trivia: Just Dance*. Jimin's sensual *Serendipity* appears in full-length form, while RM contributes the jazzy solo *Trivia: Love*. Suga delivers *Trivia: Seesaw*, a groovy reflection on love's give-and-take, while Jin shines on the anthemic ballad *Epiphany*.

The record's central single, *Idol*, merges EDM with traditional Korean percussion, serving as a defiant declaration of identity. Its kaleidoscopic video, infused with Pansori influences, has surpassed 1.3 billion views, while a remix featuring Nicki Minaj further amplified its global reach. The album closes with *Answer: Love Myself*, a tender resolution to the trilogy's narrative of self-acceptance.

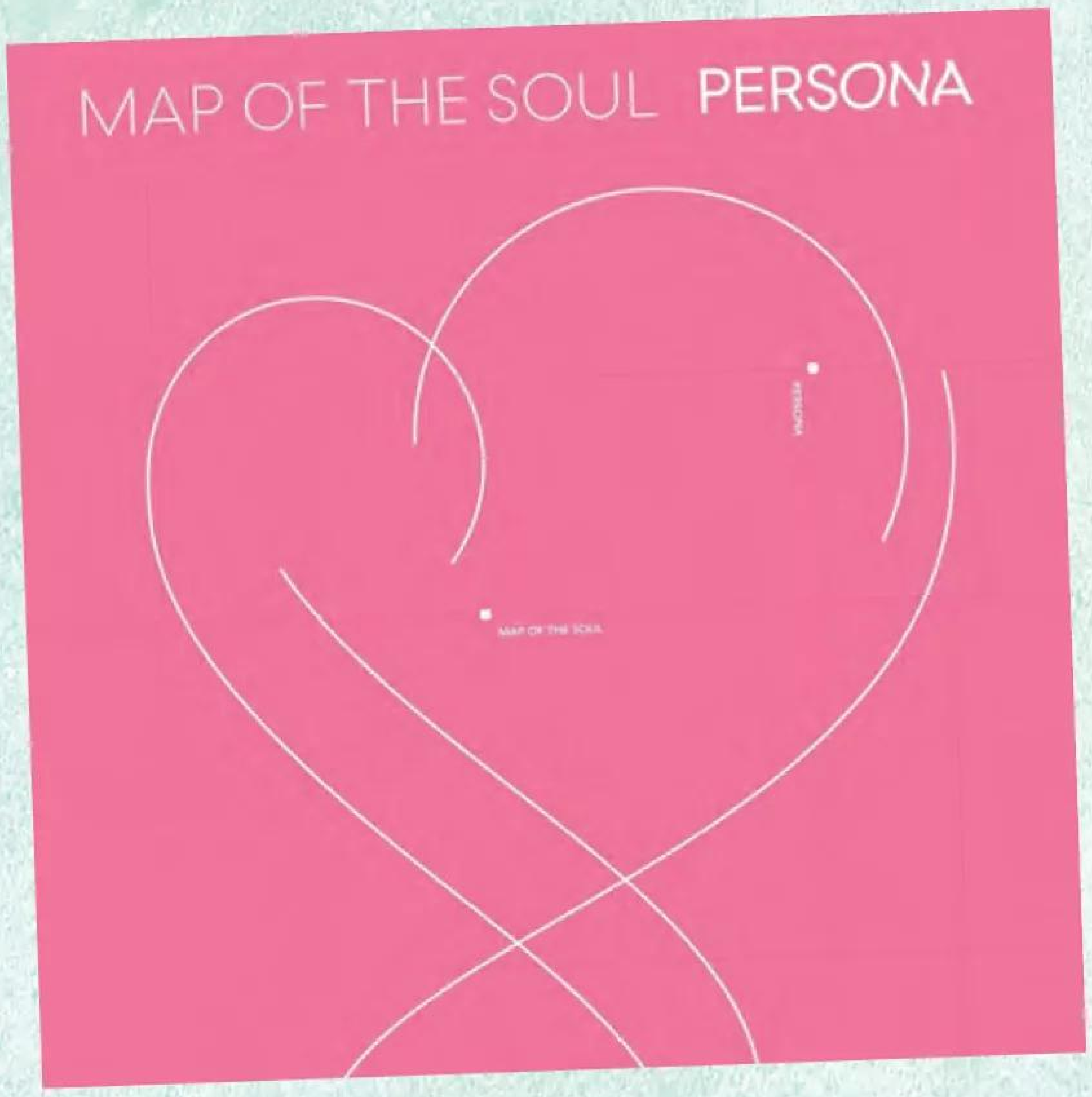
CD2 collects fan favourites from earlier releases – including *Magic Shop*, *Best Of Me*, *Airplane Pt.2*, *Anpanman* and *Mic Drop*. It also features powerful remixes: the Pedal 2 LA mix of *DNA*, Rocking Vibe mix of *Fake Love*, and the full-length Steve Aoki remix of *Mic Drop*, whose video has surpassed 1.5 billion views and became a highlight of BTS's 2019 *Saturday Night Live* debut.



MAP OF THE SOUL: PERSONA

(Mini Album)

RELEASE DATE: APRIL 12 2019



After wrapping their record-breaking *Love Yourself* world tour, BTS announced its stadium extension, *Speak Yourself*, alongside their next project: *Map Of The Soul: Persona*. Inspired by Carl Jung's psychological theory, the album explored identity, love and the joy of connection. Featuring collaborations with Halsey, Ed Sheeran and Fred Again, the release cemented BTS's position at the forefront of global pop. It debuted at number one on the US Billboard 200.

The comeback trailer, *Persona*, saw RM reflecting on his early Rap Monster years and Jung's theories of the self, asking the timeless question: Who the hell am I? The lead single, *Boy With Luv* featuring Halsey, embraced vibrant bubblegum pop. The track reached number eight on the Billboard Hot 100 and number one in South Korea, while BTS also made history as the first Asian act to headline *Saturday Night Live*.

Mikrokosmos compared their fandom to a constellation of stars, performed memorably at Seoul's Gyeongbokgung Palace on *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*. *Make It Right*, co-written with Ed Sheeran and Fred Again, offered intimate R&B warmth and was later remixed with Lauv. *Home* reaffirmed that wherever Army is, BTS has a place to belong.

The introspective sub-unit track *Jamais Vu* (Jin, J-Hope, Jungkook) played on feelings of disorientation, while the explosive closer *Dionysus* fused rock, rap and mythology into a theatrical anthem.

MAP OF THE SOUL 7 VERSION 03

MAP OF THE SOUL: 7

(Studio Album)

RELEASE DATE: FEBRUARY 2020

On the eve of the global pandemic, BTS released their most personal album yet: *Map Of The Soul: 7*. A continuation of *Persona*, the record reflects on the group's seven-year journey since debut, blending self-reflection with grand pop ambition. It became BTS's fourth consecutive number one on the US Billboard 200 and the best-selling album in South Korean history. Alongside five tracks from *Persona*, the album introduced 15 new songs, with collaborations from Sia and Troye Sivan.

The introspective *Interlude: Shadow* (Suga) set the tone, while *Black Swan* captured artistic vulnerability with haunting choreography inspired by Aronofsky's film. Jimin's seductive *Filter* wowed fans during their livestream concert, while Jungkook's *My Time* traced his journey from trainee to superstar.

Other standouts included *Louder Than Bombs*, co-written with Troye Sivan, and *00:00 (Zero O'Clock)*, a hopeful R&B ballad from the vocal line. V reflected on his younger self in *Inner Child*, while his duet with Jimin, *Friends*, celebrated their bond. Jin shone in *Moon*.

On embodied BTS at their fiercest, debuting at number four on the Billboard Hot 100. Its explosive choreography was showcased at NYC's Grand Central Terminal on *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon* and in a special Carpool Karaoke. An alternate version featured Sia.

Other highlights included the rap line's fiery *Ugh!*, the playful RM and Suga duet *Respect*, and *We Are Bulletproof: The Eternal*, a moving sequel affirming the unbreakable bond between the seven members and ARMY. J-hope's exuberant Outro: Ego closed the album, sampling BTS's debut era.

BE
2020. 11. 20 RELEASE
Life Goes On
내 방을 여행하는 법
Blue & Grey
Skit
잠시
병
Stay
Dynamite
BTS

BE

(Studio Album)

RELEASE DATE: NOVEMBER 20 2020

In the early months of 2020, as the pandemic forced the world into isolation, BTS poured their creativity into *Be*, their fifth Korean-language studio album. For the first time, all seven members participated fully in concept development, songwriting and A&R. The result was a bright, unifying pop record that resonated globally.

The lead single, *Life Goes On*, co-written with the co-founder of Rock Mafia, captured the uncertainty of pandemic life in soothing synth-pop.

The album reflects the members' emotional spectrum during lockdown. Sub-unit track *Fly To My Room* (J-Hope, Jimin, V) conveys frustration with confinement, while the ballad *Blue & Grey* became a standout hit, praised for its poetic melancholy. The conversational *Skit* captures the band processing their first Billboard number one with *Dynamite*.

Other highlights include the cheerful *Telepathy*, and *Dis-ease*, a hip-hop track normalising mental health struggles, produced with Grammy-winning duo Brasstracks. *Stay* (Jin, RM, Jungkook) channels EDM optimism, while *Dynamite* – their first English-language single – exploded worldwide. With nearly two billion YouTube views, it earned BTS a Grammy nod and spots on *Rolling Stone*'s 500 Greatest Songs Of All Time.

PROOF

(Anthology Album)

RELEASE DATE: JUNE 10 2022

In 2022, Big Hit Music announced BTS would shift focus toward solo projects, sparking global discussion about the members' mandatory military service. Just months later, BTS released *Proof*, their first anthology album – a career-spanning, three-disc collection celebrating their first decade. Gathering fan favourites, member-selected tracks, demos and unreleased songs, the album also introduced five new recordings. *Proof* topped charts worldwide and earned Album Of The Year at the Mnet Asian Music Awards, cementing BTS's legacy while signalling a new chapter.

The record opens with *Born Singer*, a heartfelt R&B adaptation of J Cole's track, where BTS reflect on their journey from unknown rookies to global icons. They performed the song live for the first time during *Proof Live*. The anthology also includes major singles like *No More Dream*, *I NEED U*, *DNA*, *Fake Love*, *Dynamite* and *Life Goes On*, alongside demo versions and hidden gems that trace the band's evolution.

New songs highlight BTS's enduring artistry. *Yet To Come (The Most Beautiful Moment)*, co-written by the rap line, closes one chapter with optimism for the future. Its music video, packed with symbolic callbacks, was nominated for Best Music Video at the 2023 Grammy Awards. *Run BTS* reaffirms the group's bulletproof spirit with electrifying choreography, first performed at their *Yet To Come in Busan* concert. The English-language smash *Butter* appears as well, a retro-disco anthem that topped global charts, crossed a billion views and earned another Grammy nomination. Finally, *For Youth* samples the fan chant from *Epilogue: Young Forever*.

FEATURE BY HADLEY MIDDLETON

Rm

The group's leader has been inspiring and supporting his bandmates since the start, and shows no sign of stopping

When BTS first announced their official hiatus in June 2022, the group's fearless leader, RM, was vocal about his hopes for each of the members to recharge, reflect and to mature as individual musicians. Since the group's trainee days, RM has continued to do just that – evolving as a rapper, songwriter and producer, collaborating with the industry's brightest and finest.

In 2015, he released his first hip-hop solo mixtape, *RM*. Namjoon's powerful lyrics explored his inner doubts and struggles, questioning his faith and a love/hate relationship with his idol trainee name, Rap Monster.

Over the years, RM released a series of impressive collabs with established artists like Wale, Fall Out Boy and Tiger JK. In 2018, his second solo mixtape, *Mono*, was voted one of the Top Ten K-Pop Albums Of The Year by *Billboard*. He was even invited to collab with Lil Nas X on the cleverly named *Seoul Town Road*, the fourth official remix of the smash-hit country-rap banger *Old Town Road*.

In the lead-up to the group's hiatus, Namjoon spoke passionately about dealing with creative burnout and losing artistic direction. As one of K-Pop's brightest stars, his light was dimming due to the constant pressure to make successful music. In the band's hiatus period, RM was determined to rediscover his musical identity, balancing his world famous BTS persona with his own artistic interests.

A STUNNING VIDEO FOLLOWS A FRESH-FACED RM BARING HIS SOUL IN FIELDS OF WHEAT

In November 2022, Hybe Corporation announced that RM would be the third member to release a solo project – his debut album, *Indigo*. Namjoon had been working on the album for the past four years, and shared preview photos on Instagram. Fans were charmed by the images of the idol, dressed in denim and bathed in warm-toned light, as he announced *Indigo*'s theme: "The last archive of my twenties."

Soon after, RM released *Indigo*'s lead single, *Wild Flower*, featuring guest vocals from Korean singer Youjeen. A stunning video follows a fresh-faced RM baring his soul in fields of wheat, walking in thunderstruck vistas and gazing into an indigo sky.

To promote the album, Namjoon gave in-depth interviews about his creative process in magazines like *NME*, *Variety* and *The Atlantic*. He performed a solo set on NPR's Tiny Desk Concert, also inviting 200 lucky fans to an exclusive, intimate concert at Rolling Hall in Hongdae, Seoul.

Indigo explores a kaleidoscope of emotion, with RM co-writing all of the album's ten songs. It charted at number three on the US Billboard 200, also appearing on *TIME* magazine's Best K-Pop Songs And Albums Of 2022. Positioning himself as a force to be reckoned with as a producer and artist, RM sat down for an exclusive YouTube interview with fellow super-producer and rapper Pharrell Williams. While he was busy promoting *Indigo*, he still found time to write and produce solo songs with the other members, contributing to bandmate Jimin's number one hit *Like Crazy* and songs from Suga's *D-Day* album.

Away from the stage, RM continued his incredible philanthropy and advocacy work. Before enlisting in the army, he was appointed as the public relations ambassador for a courageous and emotional mission with South Korea's Ministry of National Defense Agency, helping to recover the bodies of soldiers killed in the Korean War. ▶

In preparation for enlistment, RM debuted a new buzz cut in summer 2023. On Instagram, he shared updates recording music, attending glamorous red carpet events in his role as a Bottega Veneta ambassador, and supporting the members at their solo shows.

Finally, in December that year, the time came for him to enlist for basic training at the Korea Army Training Center in Nonsan. He was assigned to the military band unit of the 15th Infantry Division, impressing new recruits with his saxophone skills! Secret photos show RM performing on military stages looking handsome in his special red uniform.

Luckily fans didn't have long to wait for more music. While Namjoon completed his service, Big Hit Music released his second studio album, *Right Place, Wrong Person*. Working with a huge team of new producers and collaborating with alternative artists including Little Simz, Domi and JD Beck and Moses Sumney, *Right Place, Wrong Person* shows a totally new side of Namjoon. Electric, intriguing and non-conforming, the album sees RM experimenting with Afrobeats, jazz and even punk! Again, the album received buckets of critical acclaim.

The music video for the album's lead single, *Come Back To Me*, was directed by Lee Sung Jin, the Emmy-winning director of the hit Netflix series *Beef*. To promote the album, Namjoon released a stunning documentary *RM: Right People, Wrong Place*, taking fans into the heart of his artistic journey. BANGTANTV also released a pre-recorded in-depth interview between RM and Jimin. RM spoke candidly about delaying his enlistment to produce the album, and the pain he felt being judged by Korean society throughout the debate over whether BTS members should complete their military service.

SECRET PHOTOS SHOW RM PERFORMING ON MILITARY STAGES LOOKING HANDSOME IN HIS SPECIAL RED UNIFORM

While fans patiently waited for his return, Joon shared loads of fun photos on Instagram, visiting art galleries, traditional Korean Hanoks and posing in photobooths with his military buddies. At Jin's discharge ceremony in June 2024, Namjoon broke the internet when he arrived playing *Dynamite* on the saxophone. Later, on Weverse, he reflected on his first six months in the military, saying: "I just realised that many people still haven't forgotten us and are waiting for us and loving us. Overflowing love. As always, I will just think of the members and spend each day well."

Love was definitely flowing on RM's discharge date in June this year! At Sinbuk Sports Park in Gangwon Province, hundreds of fans gathered to greet Joon and V. RM looked effortlessly cool in sunglasses, playing the soundtrack from popular Japanese animé *Detective Conan* on his trusty saxophone!

"I'm finally out," RM said to waiting fans and the Korean media. "Honestly, I think we might've served one of the shortest military terms in history. The conditions have improved a lot. There were tough and painful moments, of course, but during our service, I came to deeply appreciate the many people who have protected this country."

Later that day, RM shared a series of handsome selfies in his military beret, before getting straight back to work. Just a week after finishing his service, he returned to the spotlight as Samsung Art TV ambassador, championing the global art scene. He spoke at the world's premier international art fair in Switzerland, swapping his army uniform for a hunky white vest!

FEATURE BY HADLEY MIDDLETON

THEIR MOST AMAZING TEAM-UPS EVER!

They're the biggest group in K-Pop, so it's no surprise that everyone wants their time to shine alongside our BTS boys. Here, we look back at their most memorable musical collaborations…

DREAM GLOW
With CHARLI XCX

Before she was Brat, Charli XCX was BTS! After meeting the members at a Korean music festival in 2017, the British singer approached the group with a reworked version of an unreleased EDM-influenced single, *Glow*. Together, they reworked the track into an English and Korean language duet, which saw Charli harmonising with Jin, Jimin and Jungkook. *Dream Glow* became the first song from the BTS World mobile game soundtrack.

▶

MY UNIVERSE

With COLDPLAY

More than 50 million people have watched the members perform a stunning live cover version of Coldplay's *Fix You* on MTV's *Unplugged*. The performance also caught the attention of Coldplay frontman Chris Martin, who rushed to collaborate with the group! In 2020, he travelled to Seoul during the pandemic for a special recording session with BTS, writing and producing *My Universe* alongside the members. A gorgeous blend of English and Korean vocals, *My Universe* earned a nomination for Best Pop Duo/Group Performance at the 2023 Grammys.

IDOL

Feat Nicki Minaj

Explosive, defiant and unapologetically loud, *Idol* is BTS at their most confident. With its mix of traditional Korean percussion, South African gqom beats, and trap-inspired drops, the song is already a kaleidoscope of global sounds. But when Nicki Minaj stepped in for a special version, the track became an even bigger statement. Her fiery verse fitted seamlessly into the song's message of self-empowerment and authenticity. The remix went beyond music – it symbolised how K-Pop was no longer just crossing borders but actively shaping pop culture on a global stage.

MAKE IT RIGHT

With Lauv

Not only does this super-smooth collaboration feature vocals from Lauv, but it's co-written by superstars Ed Sheeran and Fred Again. The R&B/pop-themed *Make It Right* became the second single from the group's 2019 EP, *Map Of The Soul: Persona*. The members delivered soft and soulful performances of the song on *The Late Show With Stephen Colbert* and in New York City's Times Square during the city's world famous New Year's Eve celebrations.

MIC DROP

With Steve Aoki, Desiigner

When BTS first recorded *MIC Drop* as a B-side track for *Love Yourself: Her*, they never could've predicted its cross-cultural appeal. First, they were approached by electro-house DJ Steve Aoki, who produced a thumping, trap remix of the song. The collab was so successful it spawned an amazing music video, which has racked up more than 1.5 billion views on YouTube. After connecting with the group at the Billboard Music Awards, American rapper Desiigner also decided he wanted a slice of the *MIC Drop* action! Desiigner went back into the studio with Steve Aoki, adding his own fiery raps to the group's banging beats. ▶

BOY WITH LUV

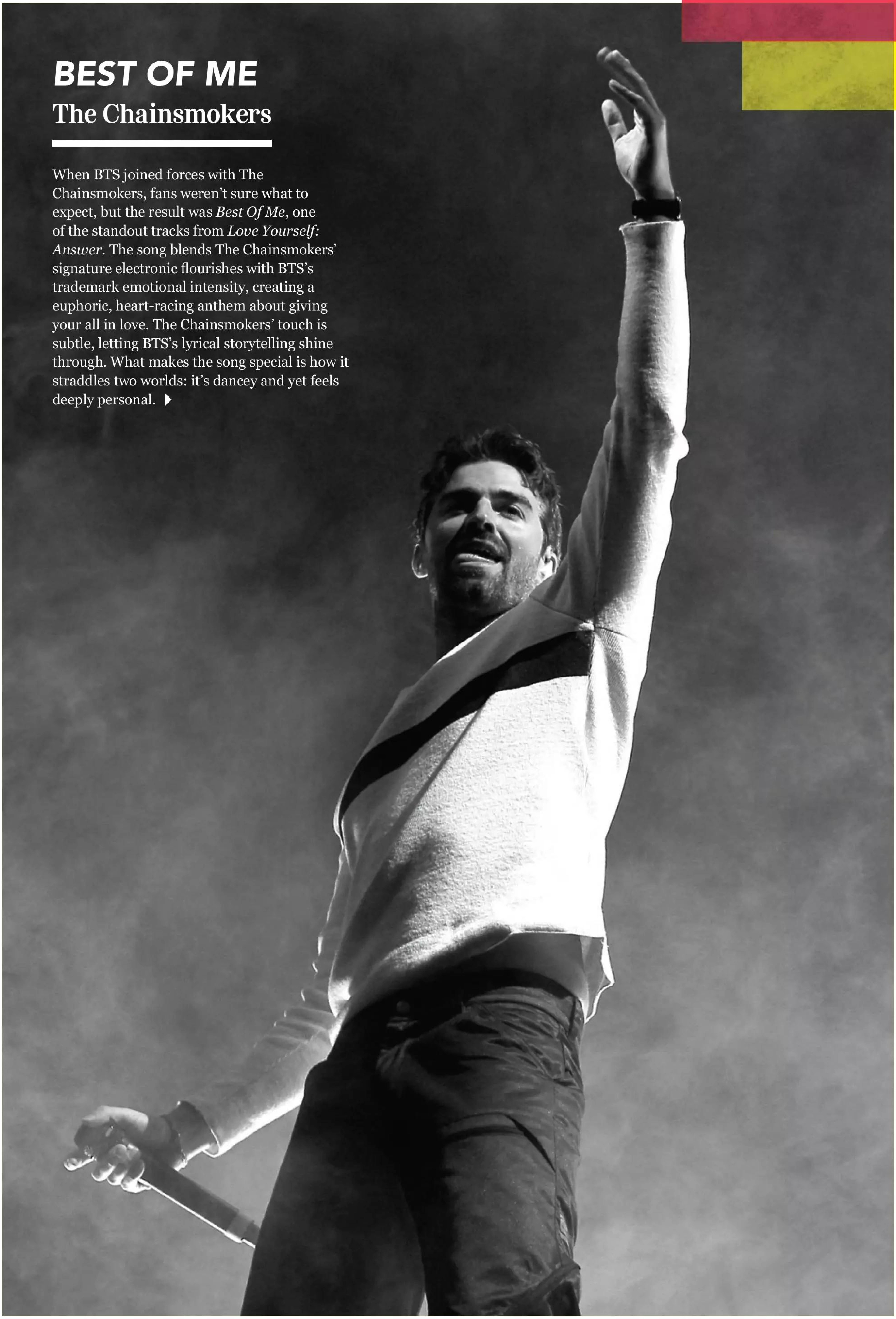
Feat Halsey

BTS made a friend for life when they teamed up with the sweet singer-songwriter Halsey. In 2019, she joined the members on their euphoric bubblegum pop hit, *Boy With Luv*. The song was a top ten hit internationally, taking home the prize for Best K-Pop at the MTV Video Music Awards and Song Of The Year at the Mnet Asian Music Awards, now the MAMA Awards. The singer surprised audiences at the Billboard Music Awards when she appeared with the members for an energetic live performance. Fans will know that Suga and Halsey have been firm friends for many years, with the singer calling Yoongi her “twin”!

BEST OF ME

The Chainsmokers

When BTS joined forces with The Chainsmokers, fans weren't sure what to expect, but the result was *Best Of Me*, one of the standout tracks from *Love Yourself: Answer*. The song blends The Chainsmokers' signature electronic flourishes with BTS's trademark emotional intensity, creating a euphoric, heart-racing anthem about giving your all in love. The Chainsmokers' touch is subtle, letting BTS's lyrical storytelling shine through. What makes the song special is how it straddles two worlds: it's dancey and yet feels deeply personal. ▶



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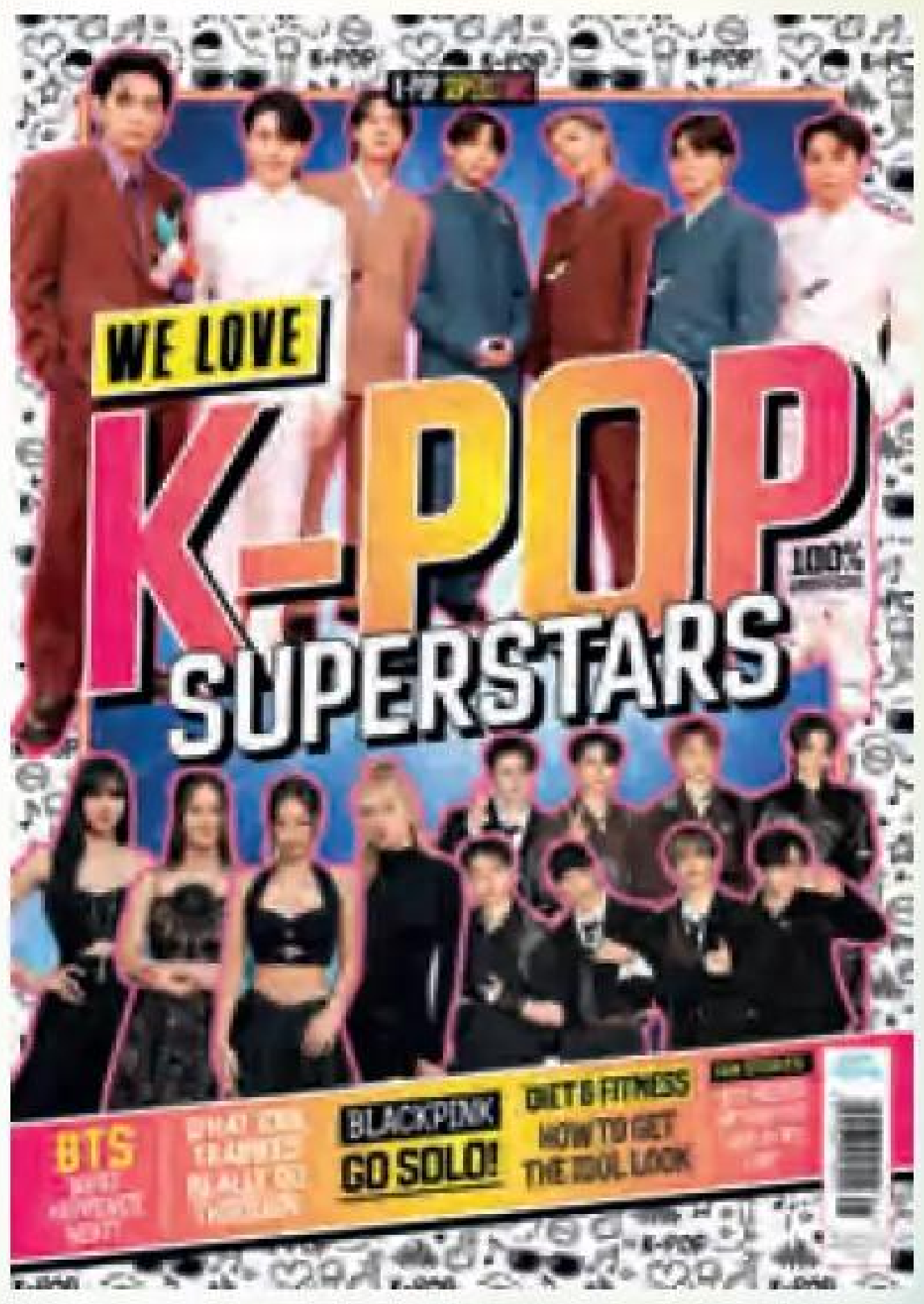
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BUTTER

With Megan Thee Stallion

What do you do when you've got the perfect summer pop song? If you're BTS, you release a cool rap remix with Megan Thee Stallion! The American rapper was so desperate to collaborate with the members that she fought against her record label to take part in this *Butter* remix. She also joined the members for a live performance of *Butter* during their 2021 *Permission To Dance* tour in Los Angeles.

FEATURE BY HADLEY MIDDLETON

J-hopE

He's one of the greatest dancers in K-Pop, and his talent doesn't stop there

Our sunshine Hobi is no stranger to genre-bending solo performances, songwriting and production. Before BTS announced their hiatus, he'd already released a successful solo mixtape, 2018's *Hope World*, before becoming the first BTS member to enter the US Billboard Hot 100 as a soloist thanks to his incredibly catchy duet with the singer Becky G, *Chicken Noodle Soup*.

It's no surprise that the perfectly polished lead dancer became the first member of BTS to begin official promotions as a solo artist during the group's hiatus in 2022.

A month later, J-Hope's critically acclaimed hip-hop debut album, *Jack In The Box*, was released. Inspired by the Greek story of Pandora's box, this concept album revealed a darker, more mature side, tackling themes like uncertainty and greed – even experimenting with scream-style vocals!

The album's singles *More* and *Arson* were a clear departure from J-Hope's usual bright, sunny demeanour. *Jack In The Box* was voted one of the top ten albums of 2022 by *Rolling Stone*, charting at number two in South Korea and number six in the US. At the end of July, he headlined at Lollapalooza festival, also scoring six nominations at the 2022 MAMA Awards. He was named as a global ambassador for the fashion house Louis Vuitton, with the announcement receiving more than five million likes on the label's official Instagram page.

With the date for his military enlistment fast approaching, J-Hope produced loads of thoughtful content to satisfy fans in his absence. In February 2023, his documentary series *J-Hope In The Box* premiered globally on Disney+, which followed the making of his debut album and preparations for his Lollapalooza performance. He also filmed another six-part docuseries, *Hope On The Street*, accompanied by an exclusive EP soundtrack, *Hope On The Street Vol.1* featuring appearances by Jungkook, Nile Rodgers and Huh Yunjin of Le Sserafim.

> **HOBI PERFORMED TO OVER HALF A MILLION FANS THROUGHOUT THE TOUR'S RUN**

Over 16 episodes of *Hope On The Street*, Hobi explores his journey to become K-Pop's most-celebrated dancer. He roams city streets around the world in Osaka, Seoul, Paris and New York, teaming up with established dancers and welcoming guest stars like Jungkook, V and Jimin.

On April 18 2023, he became the second member of BTS to begin his mandatory military service. He enlisted as an active-duty soldier in Gangwon Province and, following basic training, he became an assistant training instructor with the 36th Infantry Division in Wonju.

During breaks in his service, Hobi was spotted at an Agust D concert. He also shared a collection of handsome selfies in military uniform to his 52 million Instagram followers. J-Hope excelled in the army, earning several accolades including a Special Warrior Award, Excellent Military Trainer Award and a Military Peer Counsellor Appointment Certificate in recognition of the support he generously gave to the other recruits.

Looking particularly dashing in his black military beret, J-Hope was discharged in October 2024 to a crowd of cheering fans. Before returning to music, Hobi enjoyed time off in Los Angeles and hung out with his celebrity pals, including the Japanese fashion designer and record producer Nigo.

In the new year, Hobi rubbed shoulders with political royalty, taking to the stage at a Parisian charity event, Le Gala des Pièces Jaunes, at the invitation of French first lady Brigitte Macron. He later announced his first solo tour, *Hope On The Stage*, with 33 shows across South Korea, North America, South America and Asia. Appearing on stage clad in red leather and rhinestones, Hobi performed to over half a million fans throughout the tour's run.

THANKS TO A TALENTED CREW OF DANCERS THAT HOBI SELECTED, THE SONG'S CHOREOGRAPHY WENT VIRAL OVERNIGHT

While he was busy touring the world, J-Hope released a series of catchy non-album singles, starting with the slick R&B track, *Sweet Dreams*. A duet between J-Hope and American singer Miguel, Hobi co-wrote and produced the song, making his solo US late night debut on *The Tonight Show With Jimmy Fallon* with an interview and live performance.

Shortly after, he released a smooth and suave second single, *Mona Lisa*. Thanks to a talented crew of dancers that Hobi personally selected, the song's choreography went viral overnight. Despite being away on tour and unable to perform live in the studio, Hobi still won first place with *Mona Lisa* on the Korean music show *M Countdown*.

It marked the start of a new sensual era for Hobi, who worked closely with a female dancer, Alyssa Santos, as the lead in his next music video for *Killin' It Girl*, featuring American rapper GloRilla. Seductive and fiery, *Killin' It Girl* marked Hobi's first collaboration with the American super-producer Cirkut, who's known for writing mega hits for everyone from Lady Gaga to Miley Cyrus and The Weeknd.

Killin' It Girl became J-Hope's highest charting single to date on the US Billboard 100. In only a month, a choreography video for the song racked up 20 million views online. Hobi showed off his toned body in several revealing stage outfits, performing with his dance crew on several Korean music shows and releasing a series of steamy black and white promotional photos.

Meanwhile, on tour, Hobi was joined by special guest performer Miguel in Los Angeles, and by Jin for a performance of *Spring Day* during his two-day encore concert in Seoul. To fans' surprise, Jungkook also joined Hobi. Eagle-eyed fans spotted RM, Jimin, V and Suga in the audience, dancing gleefully and miming heart signs in Hobi's direction.

In July this year, J-Hope finished a triumphant return to his solo career by headlining Lollapalooza Berlin. He took the festival by storm, delivering a 90-minute set that earned him the accolade of Hobipalooza!

FEATURE BY HADLEY MIDDLETON

JANUARY 2026

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FEBRUARY 2026

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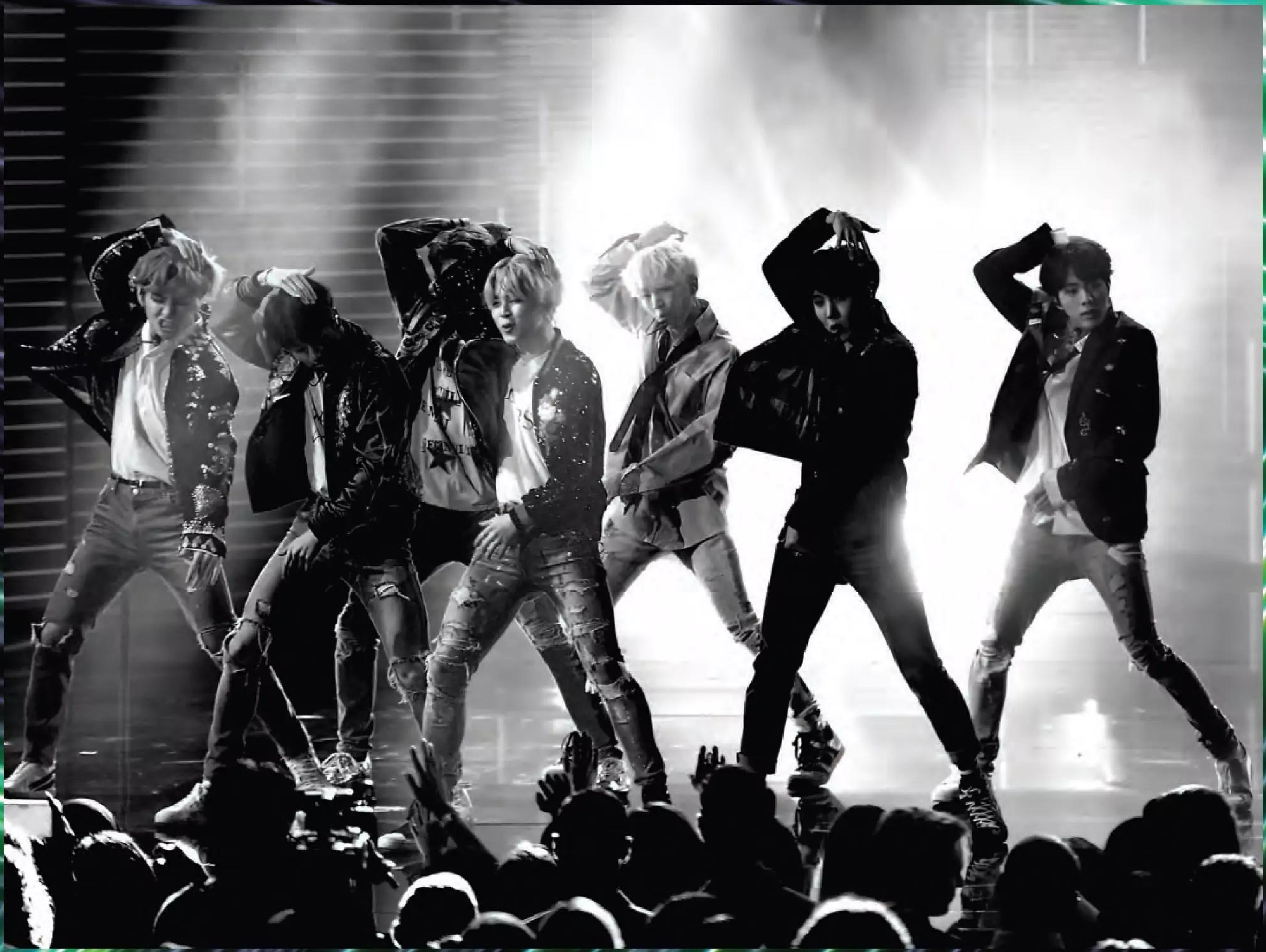

MARCH 2026

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APRIL 2026

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JUNE 2026

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JULY 2026

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AUGUST 2026

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SEPTEMBER 2026

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OCTOBER 2026

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NOVEMBER 2026

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DECEMBER 2026

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V

His gym workouts mean his voice isn't
the only thing that's full bodied

With his signature charm and striking baritone voice, it's always been tricky for TaeTae to fly under the radar. During the group's hiatus, V has undergone a transformation of both body and spirit, spending lots of time bulking up in the gym and gaining 20lb of what appears to be pure muscle!

Before BTS announced their plans for military service, V had only occasionally dabbled in solo projects and material. In 2016, he made his acting debut with a supporting role in the KBS2 historical drama *Hwarang: The Poet Warrior Youth*, collaborating with Jin on the duet *It's Definitely You* for the show's soundtrack.

Throughout the years, V worked with Big Hit producers on more solo tracks, including *Scenery* and his first all-English language song, *Winter Bear*. He contributed the cute indie pop track *Sweet Night* to the soundtrack of another K-drama, *Itaewon Class*, before earning his debut solo entry on the US Billboard Hot 100 with the holiday classic *Christmas Tree*.

While music is his first love, television is certainly a close second. In 2022, V starred in the Disney+ Korean reality series *In The Soop: Friendcation* alongside popular actors Park Seo-joon and Choi Woo-shik. The collaboration proved so successful that V later appeared alongside Seo-joon again in the 2023 Prime Video cooking show *Jinny's Kitchen*. As an intern in Jinny's pop-up Korean street food restaurant in Bacalar, Mexico, V stole the show with his easy sense of humour, fun customer interactions and his ability to whip up fresh Korean dishes in a busy kitchen!

While V was busy recording his debut solo album, *Layover*, he was announced as a brand ambassador for the French luxury brand Celine and the luxury jeweller Cartier. As an Honorary Tourism Ambassador of Seoul, V produced several stunning campaign videos advertising the Korean capital. Encouraging fans to "make it yours", more than 150 million viewers watched V's gorgeous, self-narrated adverts on YouTube, showing off the many wonders Seoul has to offer.

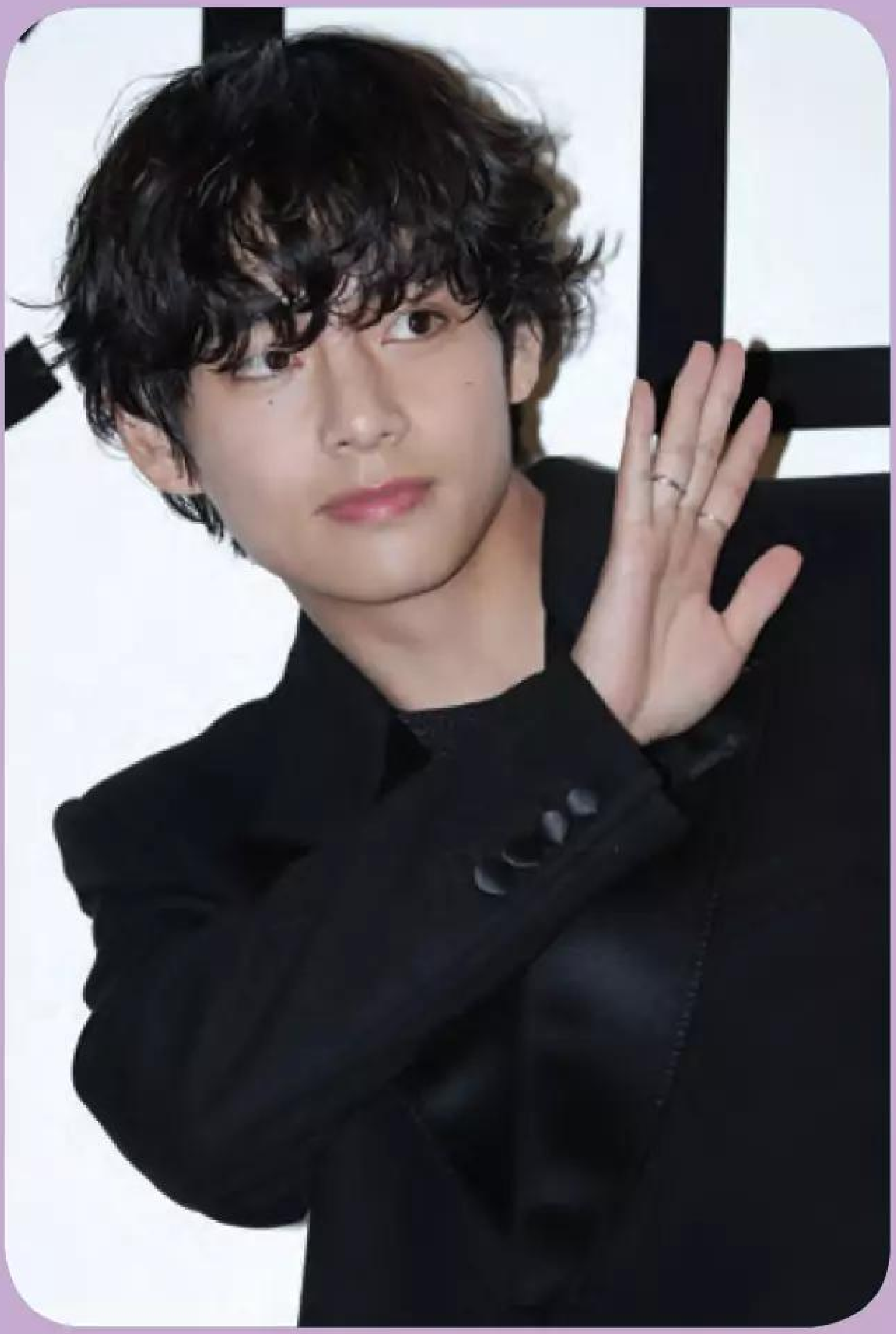
> **V HAS UNDERGONE A TRANSFORMATION OF BOTH BODY AND SPIRIT, BULKING UP IN THE GYM**

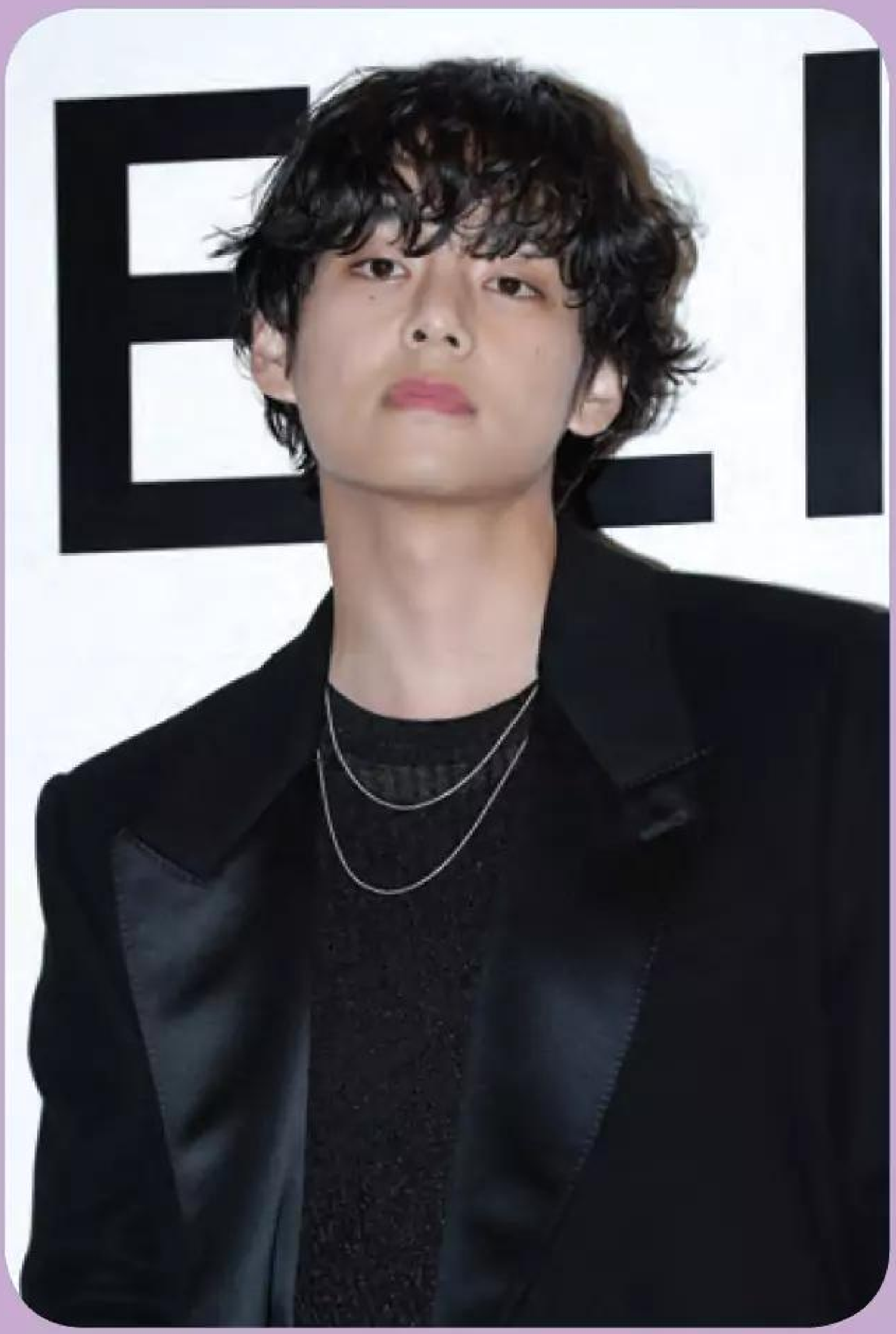
In August 2023, V released the first single from *Layover*, the sultry R&B slow jam *Love Me Again*. He promoted the song on several Korean music shows, winning three prizes and receiving nominations for Best Vocal Performance – Solo and Song Of The Year at the 2023 MAMA Awards. Dressed in yellow and red sequins, a sparkly performance video imagines V as a singer in a karaoke booth video. A day later, V debuted another song for the album, *Rainy Days*, written by the South Korean rapper Masta Wu.

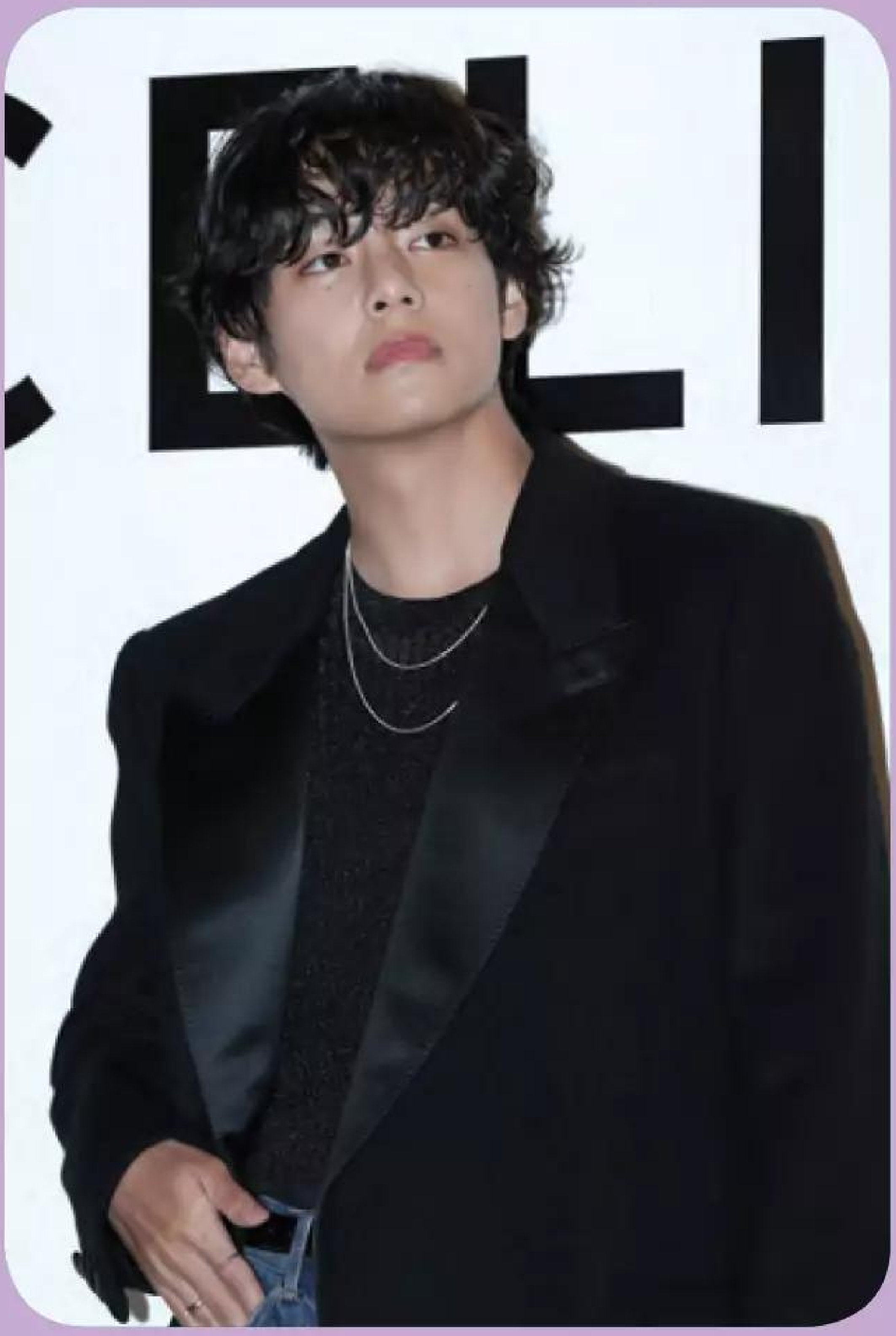
To promote the album, V performed a live set on NPR Music's Tiny Desk Korea, and a stripped-back performance of *Layover*'s track *Slow Dancing* on the popular Japanese music segment *The First Take*. With its '70s romantic soul vibes, *Slow Dancing* charted at number 51 on the US Billboard Hot 100, winning six first place trophies on Korean music shows. Nearly 70 million fans have watched the song's sun-dappled video, which follows V and his friends on a carefree island road trip. Tae's adorable dog, Yeontan, has a cameo in the video and appeared alongside his loyal owner during a viral live performance on *M Countdown*.

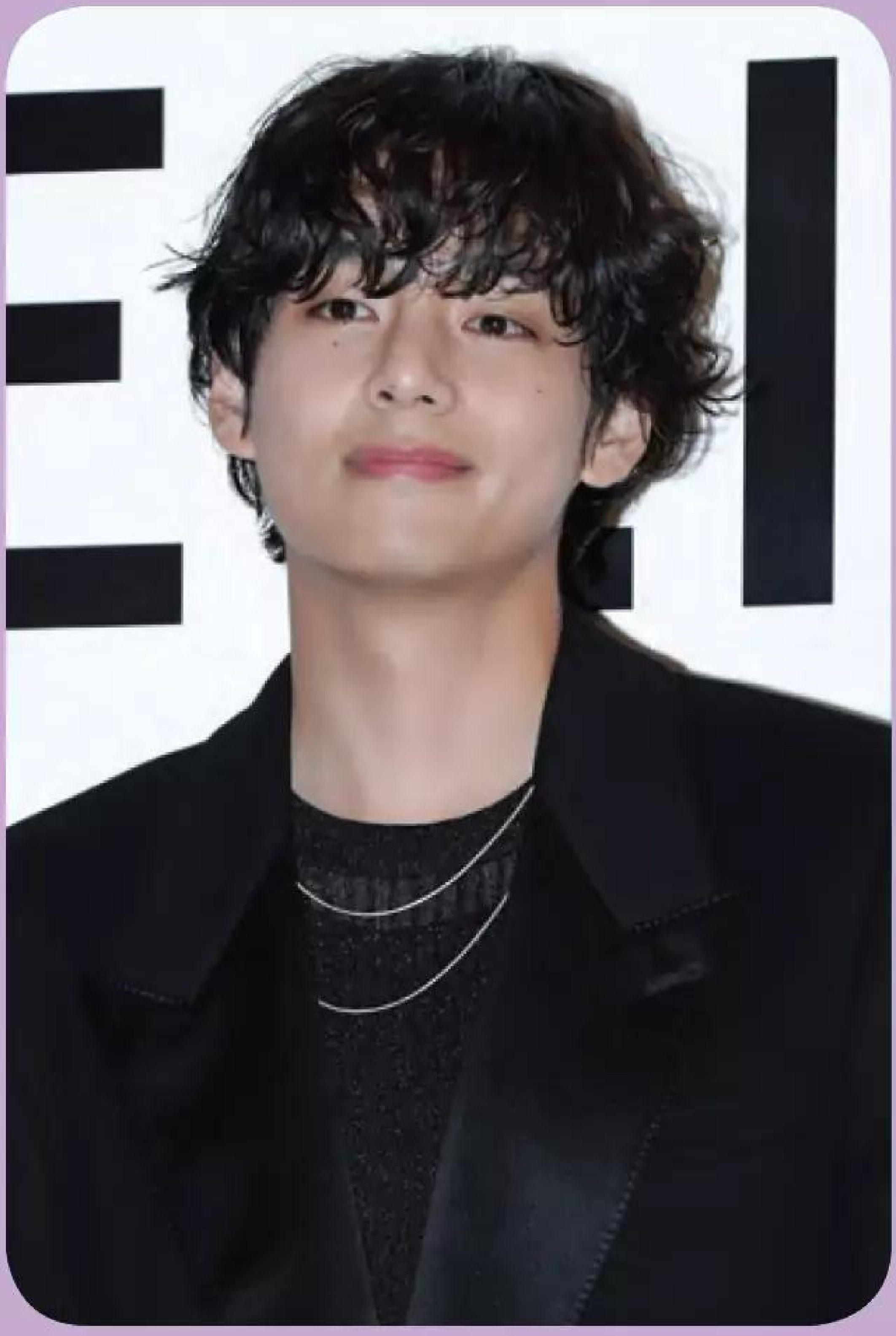
During promotions, V also made time to visit his bandmate Suga's popular web series, *Suchwita*. V was seen doing press-ups off-camera to prepare for the interview and was described by Yoongi as being the "number one male idol"! *Suchwita* marked V's first solo appearance on a talk show. He brought a bottle of Russian Jack wine to share with the host, and spoke candidly about the pressures of solo promotions.

Layover sold more than two million copies in South Korea, debuting at number two on the Billboard 200 in the US. The album's success made V one of the highest charting Korean solo artists in chart history alongside his BTS brothers, Jimin and Suga. Layover was also voted the second best K-Pop album of 2023 by *Billboard* magazine. ▸









A MONTH AFTER HIS RELEASE, HE ENJOYED AN EVEN BOUGIER CELEBRATION, TRAVELLING TO PARIS FOR THE CELINE FASHION SHOW

Riding high on the success of his debut album, on December 11 2023 V enlisted for his military service alongside bandmate RM. The members and their families gathered to wish them well as they entered an army training centre in Nonsan, South Chungcheong Province.

V reportedly volunteered to fulfil his duties under the Special Task Force of the Military Police Corp. Tae started spending lots of time in the gym, posting buff selfies on social media while training with professional Korean bodybuilder Ma Sun Ho. He was spotted by fans providing high-level security for important public events in Seoul, dutifully helping the public.

While V completed his duties, Big Hit Music released several non-album singles as a treat for fans. The first single, *FRI(END)S*, explores the desire to finally move a long-standing friendship into romance.

Fans were delighted when V made a guest appearance in Jimin and Jungkook's Disney+ travel reality show, *Are You Sure?!*. Tae joined his BTS brothers for three standout episodes exploring Korea's Jeju Island.

V later released a holiday jazz duet, *Winter Ahead*, co-written and performed with South Korean singer Park Hyo-shin. As a holiday treat for fans, he also recorded a remix of the Bing Crosby classic *White Christmas*.

On June 10 this year, V was officially discharged from the South Korean military in a huge public celebration with RM. They each saluted and posed for photos upon their release in Chuncheon City, as thousands of fans cheered nearby.

V celebrated his discharge date by sharing a triumphant carousel of Instagram photos with his 69 million followers. "I came to report Sergeant Kim's survival!" he wrote.

A month after his release, he enjoyed an even bougier celebration, travelling to Paris for the Celine Spring 20206 Fashion show and taking in the sights! V was spotted at the Eiffel Tower and posing with bottles of Coca-Cola to promote his new partnership with the famous beverage.

FEATURE BY HADLEY MIDDLETON

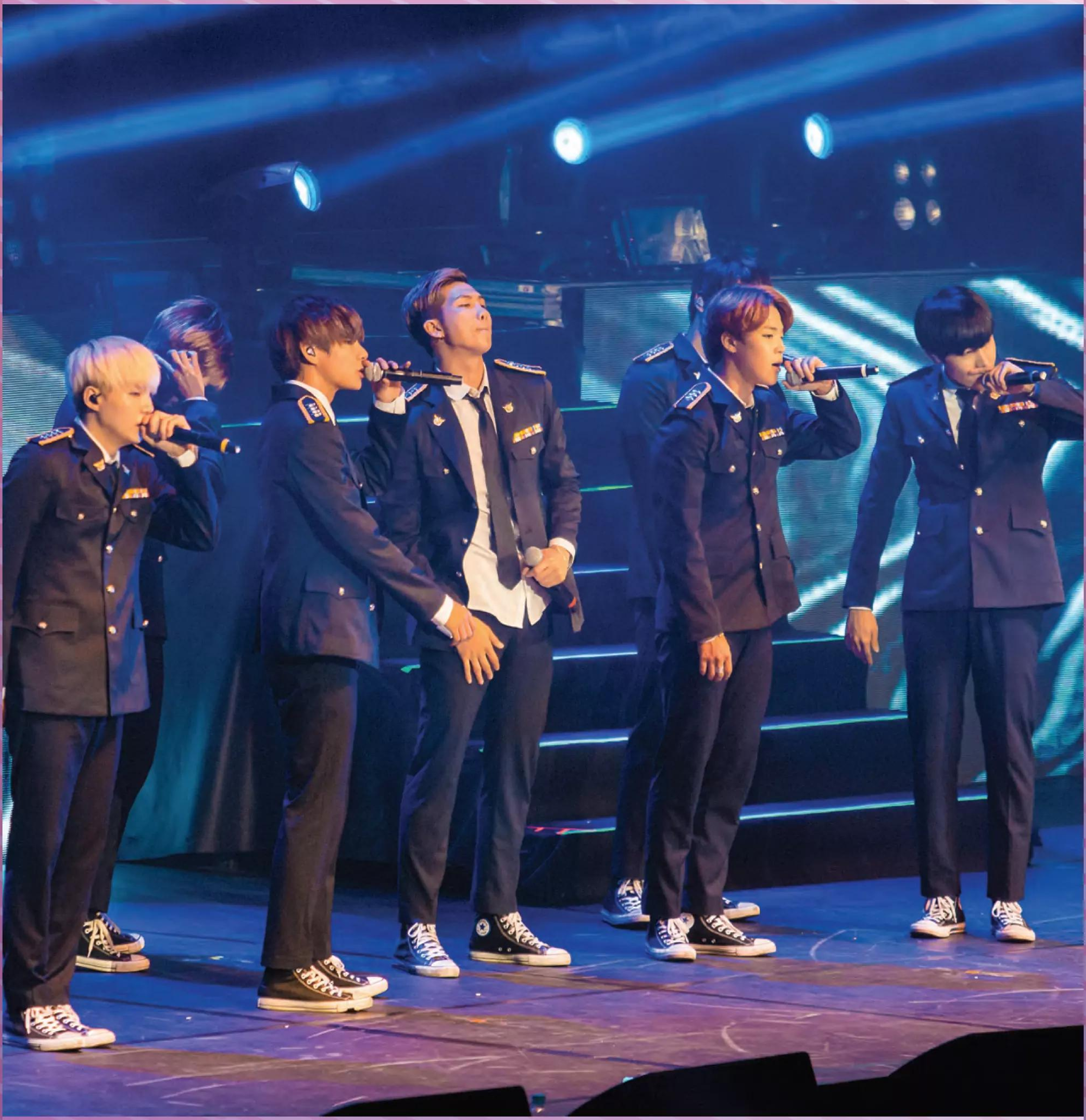
COLOURING IN

+ +J
ARMY

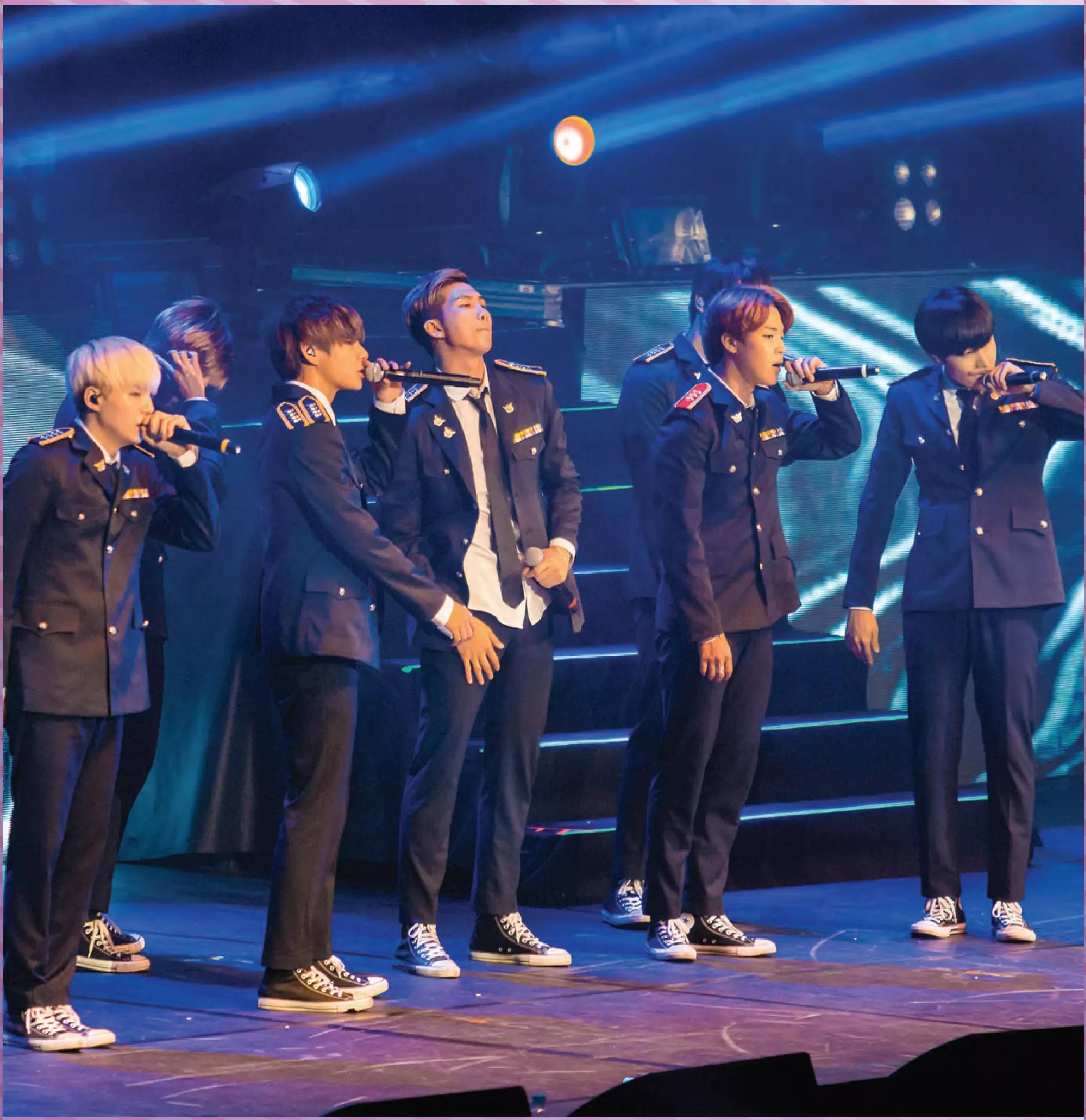
ILLUSTRATIONS BY JAMES WILDMAN

Take a close look at these pictures of BTS on stage in Brazil and see if you can find the ten differences between them…

SPOT THE



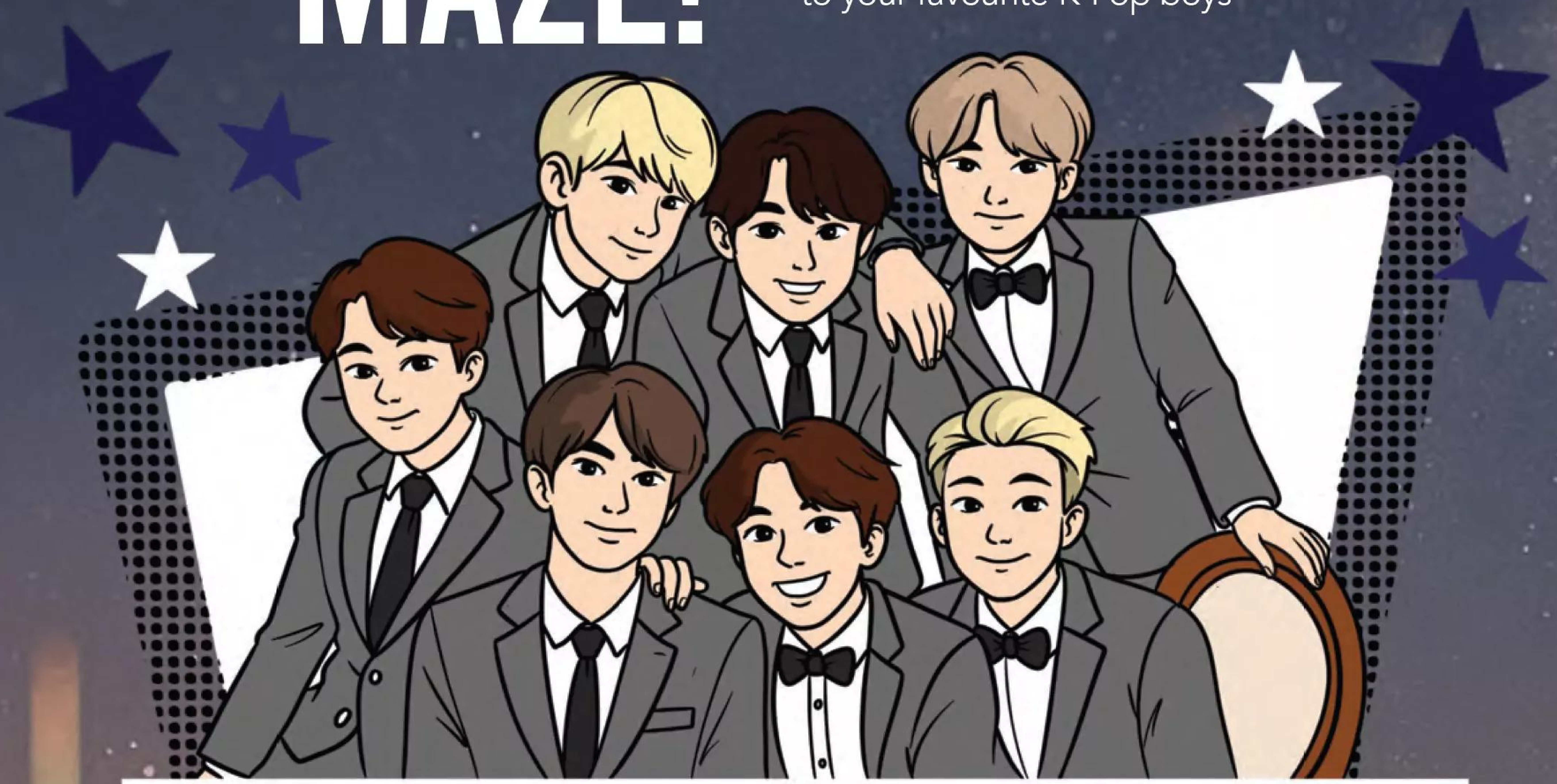
DIFFERENCE



ANSWERS: BUTTON ON JACKET IS MISSING; RM HAS EXTRA BADGE ON HIS JACKET; SPOTLIGHT MISSING; V'S MICROPHONE IS LONGER; RM'S TIE IS LONGER; TRAINER MISSING; SPOTLIGHT COLOUR IS DIFFERENT; RM'S TRAINER BADGE HAS GONE; V HAS AN EXTRA SHOULDER BADGE; SHOULDER BADGE IS NOW A DIFFERENT COLOUR

MAZE!

Find your way through our labyrinth
to your favourite K-Pop boys



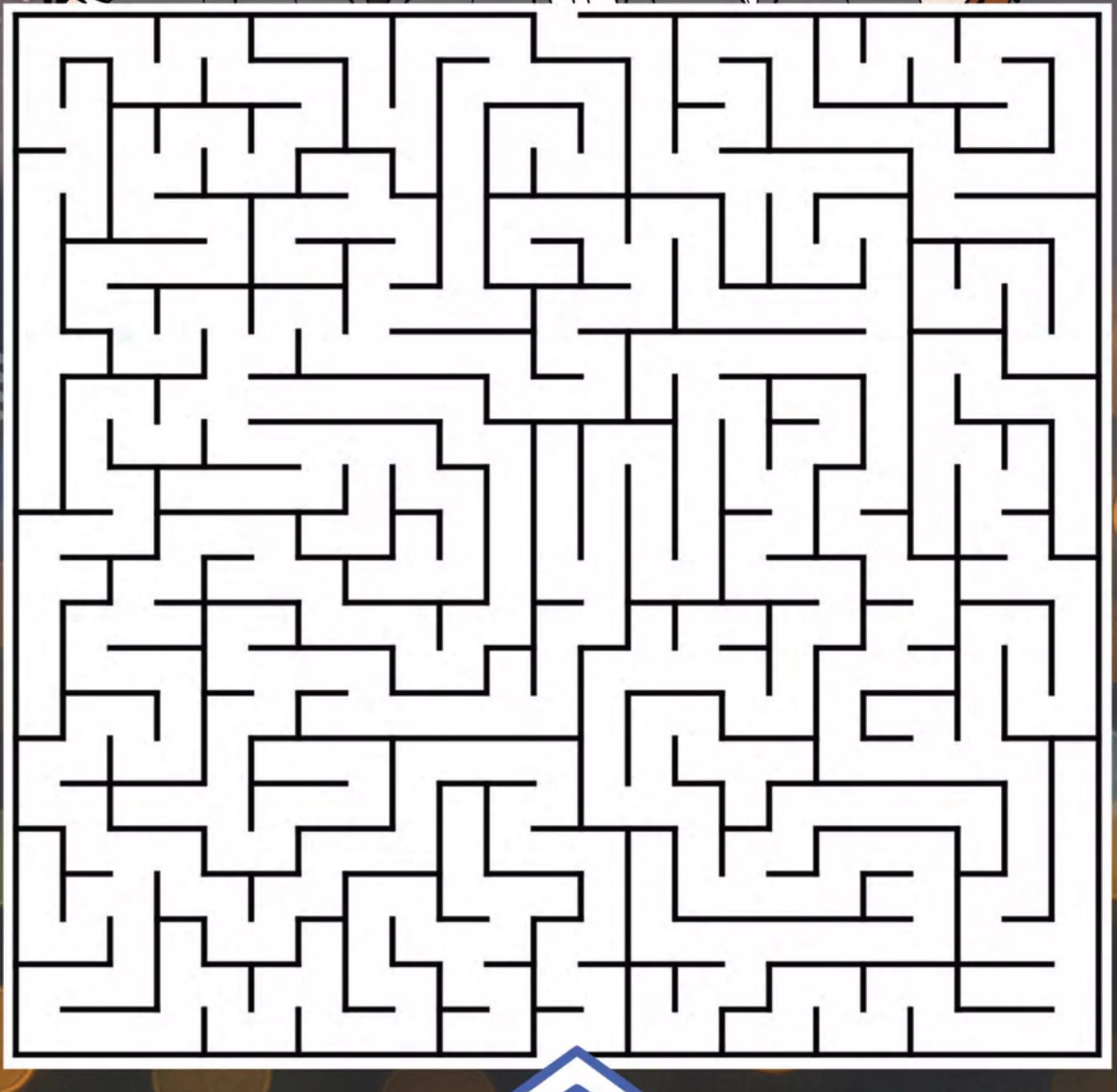


ILLUSTRATION BY ADAM DOYLE

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